

African Violets

QK1
A3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 1998

Volume 51

Number 1



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1994 Handbook - \$10.25 (postpaid)

Note: We have reprinted the Judges Handbook. If you ordered a handbook prior to November 1994 and would like to update your book with all the changes that have appeared in the AVM thru Jan. '95, please order 1993 Updated pages. Cost is \$4.25.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net or editor@avsa.org

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email 06jlsmith@BSU.edu

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February

Volume 51

Number 1

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Thanks To AVSA Members From Colorado	4
Thanks To The Tristate AV Council (NY, NJ, PA)	4
Some Potting Tips the Books Don't Mention	5
In Memory of Evan Paul Roberts	15
Attention Affiliates	19
1998 AVSA Board Nominees	20
Not Dead Yet! - Elizabeth Whitesides	21
Attention Affiliates.	22
Let Me Tell You About My Wife - Henry B. Rinick, Jr.	23
Everyone Is An Expert - Don Geiss	24
Violets In Retirement - Joan Halford	26
Attention Affiliates.	26

Constructing & Judging A Bubble Bowl - Cathy Cornibe . . .	27
Curls & Frills - Ruth Coulson	30
Fantastic Ideas! - Pat Vinciguerra	31
Growing For The Gold - Rita Hilton	32
Thanks to AVSA Booster Fund & Ohio Affiliates - Ann Miller	33
Let's Go Underground - Rena Douglas	34
Goodbye Granger Gardens - David Buttram	40
What Happened To My Plants - Dr. Charles Cole.	43
A Report on Growing AV's From Commercial Seed - K.C. Arceneaux	46

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers.	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells.	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
AVSA & Today's Technologies - John Carter	5
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	6
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	9
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	10
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons.	12
AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton.	12
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondan	13
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	14
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	16
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	17
Why Join an Affiliate? - Bev Promersberger	18
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin.	19
AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin	19
Registration Report - Iris Keating	22
Showcase	28
Send Your Choices - Floyd Lawson.	35
In Memory	35

Showcase	36
Coming Events	39
Annual Index - Bill Paauwe	61

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

JAN 13 1998

COVER

Bottom: **Petite Jewel**
Best Miniature,
1997 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: **Phyllis King**
Hybridizer: H. Pittman

Top L - R:
Little Pro
2nd Best in Show
From AVSA Best Mini/Semi
Collection, 1997 National Show
Exhibited By: **Kathy Lahti**
Hybridizer: H. Pittman

Bogey Man
3rd Best In Show
From AVSA Best Semi/Mini
Collection, 1997 National Show
Exhibitor: **Kathy Lahti**
Hybridizer: R. Scott
Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



CONVENTION

What's Your Line? - Barbara Elkin	13
Last Chance! - Linda Golubski.	31
1998 Convention Awards - Linda Golubski.	41

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 59
AGGS. 53
Alannah's AV's. 52
Allegro 55
American Orchid Society 53
AV Enterprises Press. 53
AVS of Canada 53
AVSA Address Labels. 59

B

Bayou Violets. 51
Belisle's Violet House 54
Bluebird Greenhouses. 60

C

Cape Cod Violetry. 58
Cryptanthus Society. 53

D

Dyna Gro. 54

E

Evergreen Violets. 51

F

Florals of Fredericks 59

G

Gardener's
Greenhouse . . Inside Back Cover

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets. . 60
Herbal Garden Ceramics 54
Hobby Greenhouse 60

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 60

J

JF Industries. 55

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents 51
Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses. 52

M

Mighty Minis 55
Mudhole Productions 54

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Pets 55

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 50
Rozell Nursery 59

S

Schultz. 59
Shirley's House of Violets 57
Sonja's AV's 60
Source
Technology - Phyton 27 60

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund. 54
Teas Nursery 54
Toni's Home Nursery 54
Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
Travis' Violets. 51

V

Violets by Appointment 55
Violets, Etc. 55
Violets From the Starrs 51
Violet House. 56
Violet Showcase 57
Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses. . . 49



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pandjw@erols.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: Janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajt@aol.com

Happy New Year

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

I hope that each of you had a joyful holiday season and are ready for the new year. As so many of us are experiencing the cold winter months, our African violets can be a great source of enjoyment and can serve as a daily reminder that spring is coming.

The Executive Committee of AVSA met at the Lone Star African Violet Council convention in Houston in November. We also visited the AVSA Office in Beaumont and toured Becker Printing where our African Violet Magazine is published. This was a good opportunity for us to meet with the office staff and those who are directly involved in the preparation of this publication. Several topics were discussed in our meetings that weekend. The most significant decision was the approval of a proposal from the Technology Committee for software for the computer system at the AVSA Office. The new membership software was installed in early December and the staff is busy learning how to use the system efficiently. We are confident that it will be a great time-saver in the processing of your membership renewals, orders for items sold through the AVSA Office, and convention registrations.

The Executive Committee also spent a great deal of time discussing ideas and suggestions for the AVSA Website on the Internet. Several recommendations from the Internet Committee were approved. The Internet Committee is now working on a whole new, expanded website. We hope to have it online early this year. A possible new feature to be included is the ability to order AVSA materials on-line. The new website will also feature much more information about AVSA and about growing African violets.

Following a successful site visit in late November by our Convention Director, Ann Miller, the Executive Committee approved her recommendation to accept an invitation from the Missouri Valley African Violet Council to host the 2000 AVSA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. AVSA has never had a convention in Omaha, so we are excited about going to a new city. Omaha has some outstanding sites for tours and is easily accessible by air or by car. As a charter member of Missouri Valley AVC, I can assure you that MVAVC always puts on a spectacular show.

This issue of the African Violet Magazine includes all the information you need to start making your plans to attend this year's convention in Sacramento, California. Convention Chairman Barbara Elkin has promised beautiful weather in April. Turn to the purple pages in the center of the magazine for all of the details about the show, the tours, the presentations, the banquets, and all of the other convention activities. Get your registration form in early and start watching for those bargain air fares. If by chance you have a convention question that is not answered here, just call the AVSA Office or send us an e-mail and we will try to get the information you need as soon as possible.

Your AVSA Office staff is eager to assist you at any time. While Cindy Chatelain, former Office Manager, is no longer employed by AVSA, staff members Jenny Daugereau and Tammi Gotcher are ready and willing to answer your calls and mail promptly and efficiently.

As we begin a new year, I would like to suggest two new year's resolutions: first, that each member of AVSA try to get a new member during 1998, and secondly, that each of us try to grow at least one plant that could be considered for a Best in Show award at our 1998 shows.

Happy New Year!

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

Happy New year!

In this issue you'll find the Purple Convention Pages filled with the information you'll need to plan your trip to the AVSA 52nd National Convention in Sacramento, California.

The Radisson Hotel Sacramento is a luxurious resort hotel, complete with a private lake and acres of landscaped grounds, yet it's only five minutes from the state capitol. Be sure to register early for the convention, taking advantage of the Early Bird Discount.

Bill Paauwe has again done a great job compiling our Annual Index for 1997 (page 61-64). This index will enable you to look up the articles published in the previous year by author and subject, as well as all the color photographs. Often our members call requesting information from previous issues and I've found these indexes to be a valuable tool in helping them.

One of our Commercial Members, **Linda's Heavenly Accents**, was inadvertently excluded from the listing of Commercial Members in the September/October AVM. Linda is trying to collect all of the Fredette varieties. You may contact her at the following address:

Linda's Heavenly Accents
PO Box 690
Cordova, NC 28330

We have two Showcase sections in this issue, so be sure to have a look at some of the amazing plants our members have grown. I want to encourage members to send color slides or transparencies of their show winning entries. Please make sure that no name card is nestled in the foliage, and that they are not set against a "busy"

backdrop that would detract from the plant.

Also, please consider writing an article to share some of your experiences with violets. In this issue, **K.C. Arceneaux** gives us an interesting look at her experiences with, "A Report on Growing African Violets From Commercial Seed", (pg. 46). Well-known grower, **Rita Hilton**, shares her award-winning methods on page 32, in the presentation she gave at the Atlanta convention, "Growing For the Gold".

First-time submitter, **Hank Rinick**, of Florida, tells of his adventures in the world of African violets as he followed his wife into the hobby with, "Let Me Tell You About My Wife" (page 23).

The awards set aside for the Sacramento Convention are listed on pages 41 and 42 of this issue. Awards Chairman, **Linda Golubski**, tells me that there is still time to donate an award. The deadline for having them listed in the Convention Souvenir Book is February 15, 1998.

It was a privilege to attend the Lone Star AVC State Convention in Houston in November. The hosting Affiliate Clubs; **AV Study Club of Houston, NASA Area AVS, Office Violets and Lunch** and the **Spring Branch AVC** made it a memorable experience. There were so many entries in the show, I have no idea how the judges narrowed down their choices! I had never seen a "mirror image" arrangement, and have to admit that I just had to poke my finger through the hollow frame because it looked so real. (Unfortunately, this act did not go unnoticed and I may be hearing about it for a while.)

Thank you for all the positive comments about the AVM. I want very much to produce a publication that all of our members will enjoy. Please send me any suggestions or ideas you have for improving this magazine.

THANKS TO THE TRISTATE AV COUNCIL

The Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY, PA) has donated funds for a memorial plaque honoring Lezita Hamilton, to be displayed in the AVSA Office. Thank you for honoring this longtime member who was instrumental in the founding of a permanent home for AVSA.

THANKS TO THE AVSA MEMBERS FROM COLORADO

who contributed for the memorial plaque to be displayed in the AVSA office honoring longtime AVSA member, **Nell-Sue Tyson**.



by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee

AVSA and Today's Technologies

The AVSA Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new computer program to be used in maintaining the society's membership records. The program was installed and membership data converted the first week of December. The staff received training in the use of the system and it is now being used to record membership renewals and the addition of new members.

The old system only permitted the storing of the basic name and address information. There was no ability to store phone numbers or other information about a member. You will have the opportunity to provide your phone number on your membership renewal this next year and if you have an email address you may also provide it. This will give the staff more information to serve you.

What will the new program mean to you, the membership? You will see a new format for the membership renewal notice. If you are associated with an affiliate or serve on an AVSA committee you will not see different membership numbers appear associated with your different positions. This will simplify the record keeping required by the staff. The office will also be able to save on postage by using the new software to verify your address and print your address according to postal regulations to get lower rates for mailing the membership renewal notices and magazines.

You can save AVSA money by notifying the office of a

change in your address and by paying your dues before we have to send a second notice. It costs AVSA \$.50 if your magazine is forwarded. Our new program will verify your address against the post office records so it will be important for you to notify them of your address change also.

Computers are part of our lives. We could not make a phone call, write a check or use a credit card without them. We are trying to use them in the AVSA office to make the staff more efficient in providing services to the membership. You can be assured that any information you provide to AVSA will not be used for any other purpose. Currently the Internet Committee is looking at improving the AVSA web site to make it of better service to the membership and a tool to recruit new members. Many of our commercial members are providing outstanding web sites which also further the cause of AVSA.

The board made a significant financial commitment to upgrade the hardware and software used in the office. There will be an ongoing expense of maintenance on the equipment and software to avoid the situation where we will have a major expense like this again. I want to thank those who have made contributions and encourage you to make a contribution if you have not. We are making it easy for you to include a contribution with your membership renewal so you can just write one check. If each member just pays a couple of dollars extra we can cover the expenses and be prepared for the unexpected expenses.

Some Potting Tips the Books Don't Mention

If you do not have the luxury of a POTTING ROOM, maybe the hints below will be of assistance:

1. Make sure you have more than enough potting mix, pots and wicks to do the job. There is nothing more annoying than finding out you have 10 plants to repot but only enough potting mix for 3 plants.
2. Do not wash kitchen floor before attempting this task. It only doubles the work load.
3. Make sure your labels and pens are water proof.
4. Use silver or bright utensils. I have managed to dispose of at least one black handled cutlery set over the years.
5. Dispose of husband/wife, children and animals. You don't want them to see what you do with the scissors, best knives etc. They will only want to make a sandwich or a cup of coffee if they are not locked outside.
6. Take the phone off the hook or put answering machine on, vermiculite sticks like glue to the hand piece. Shut front door, it is not the best time to talk to the local real estate agent about selling your house.
7. Open kitchen blinds or curtains, it is easier to clean glass than have the blinds/curtains cleaned.
8. Have two different colored tubs; one for new mix and one for old mix. Place on opposite sides of sink. It is very frustrating when you realize you have emptied out old mix into the tub full of new mix. Hence the need for more potting mix than required.
9. Can't stand scrubbing pots? Then don't. When you have the sink full of soapy water after washing down all scrubable surfaces after the repotting exercise soak, and lightly wash out the used pots. Then into your empty tubs (the ones used for repotting) put in equal amounts of bleach and detergent and leave for a few hours (usually days). You should find all the build up salts etc. have dissolved. Then it's just a case of rinsing out and storing until next time you have time to repot.
10. DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE TO GO TROUGH THIS AGAIN.

*Reprinted with permission from The African Violet,
Official Journal of the AV Assoc. of Australia, Inc.*



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

MAIL ORDERS - SOME TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Did you see the picture of that beautiful violet? Do you own that violet? Know how to get it? Maybe a friend has it. Maybe you live near the hybridizer. Maybe someone will sell it at the next African violet show in your area. Maybe you can go to the next AVSA convention and buy it there. Maybe. If you really want it and want it reasonably soon, you probably have to send for it.

What do you need to know in order to be successful at mail-ordering? Understanding the way weather affects the process is essential. Knowing that you need to stay in communication with the African violet dealer if there are any problems or special needs provides extra insurance. Being prepared to pay extra for newer varieties of violets and speed-shipping will make the bill less painful. And yes, a measure of patience may be necessary.

Be aware, when you are purchasing standard-size hybrids, dealers will usually offer either starter-size plants (with little or no bloom) or leaf cuttings. Mature standards have less flexible foliage and are extremely difficult to ship successfully. Miniature and semiminiature violets are easier to ship at a mature stage and may be offered in many stages of growth.

It is important for any buyer to remember it is the hybrid strain that is being purchased. If you just wanted a nice plant you could go to your florist or grocery store. You want the special set of genes that are in one specific hybrid variety of African violets. Whether you buy a leaf cutting or a starter plant, it is the specific genetics of that hybrid that you are purchasing. As long as the leaf or plant is viable (capable of living and reproducing), you have received what you really want. It is wonderful when the leaf produces ten baby plants or the plant is already budded, but that is not always a realistic expectation.

Master these concepts and ordering African violets by mail can be very satisfying.

THE WEATHER

If you were ordering clothing or books by mail, you wouldn't have to consider the weather. But you wish to order living African violets, and you want them to be alive and flourishing long after they arrive. You must consider the weather. Your weather, the weather at the commercial dealer's location, and the weather everywhere in between are all important.

Since African violets do not tolerate temperatures below 45 degrees Fahrenheit for any length of time, they cannot be shipped without expensive packing when temperatures are near or below freezing at any point on the route. A few businesses offer special packing in insulated boxes and make every effort to ship year round. They must charge extra for this service. If you want to have your order shipped in the dead of winter (winter here, there or in-between), you should be ready to pay for adequate protection. You would also want to pay for rapid shipment so that the plants are not exposed to the extreme cold for any longer than necessary. Many dealers ship only in warmer months when cold is not a problem.

Violets will not tolerate extreme heat either. If temperatures are pushing 90 degrees (here, there and in-between) the shipper is likely to postpone shipping until it cools some. This is a good decision.

The limitations caused by weather mean that you must be more patient than you might be for other mail order purchases. Remember, too, that when weather extremes do not permit shipping, a backlog of orders can pile up. It can take a long time for the shipper to get caught up.

If you can't stand to wait, you must be willing to accept the possibility of damage and to pay extra for special packing and shipping.

You also **MUST** be ready and willing to unpack your plants the day (preferably the hour) that they arrive! If a package becomes too warm or too cold in transit, the inside of the package changes temperature. All of the insulation in the box holds that new temperature. If the plants are unpacked immediately, they will not suffer more than necessary. Leave them wrapped up in the package for even one extra day and the damage can be devastating. It would not be fair to ask the shipper to replace plants that are damaged (by neglect) after they have been received. Generally, any damage should be reported within twenty-four hours of arrival.

PLANT PRODUCTION

Every commercial grower and shipper would love to have a magic wand to wave so that they could always have every violet variety at the perfect stage for shipping all of the time. It would take magic, because it isn't possible.

Varieties of African violets grow at different rates and produce different numbers of baby plants in a clump. Some plants will produce in overabundance very quickly, and others will barely produce anything in a year's time. Variegated and chimera hybrids are often especially slow to produce. Plant cuttings that produce babies slowly usually come from plants that grow more slowly, making fewer leaves available for putting down.

Unexpected events can also change the demand for any one variety, rapidly reducing what seemed like an adequate supply. When a beautiful new African violet hybrid is pictured on the front cover of this magazine, the demand for that variety is going to swell. The editor often will advise the hybridizer that the picture is coming (which tells you how nice our editor is?), but other growers won't know until the magazine comes out. Similar things can happen when a newspaper does a special article, when a plant is featured on a computer web-site, or a plant wins best in show at a well-attended exhibition.

Since production of every variety varies, some plants on a mail order list might be mature while others might be very young. That must be timed to match good weather for shipping. It is a very difficult job.

SUBSTITUTING

Many commercial businesses request a list of substitutes. Most commercials prefer not to substitute at all, and do so only when the customer's order is impossible to fill as requested. This is especially likely to happen late in the shipping season.

If you cannot tolerate substitutes, you must place your order at the earliest possible time and be ready to wait for all plants to mature enough for shipping. If all available plants are already sold before your order comes in, the grower has to produce more before your order can be filled. Often, if one or two substitutes can be made, the order can be filled more quickly.

Listing substitutes guarantees that you will not get duplicates of plants already in your collection. If no substitutes are listed, the commercial grower has to guess as to your taste and preferences.

DROP-KICKED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Packages that are shipped are at risk. Commercials label shipments with temperature needs and suggest which way should be up, but these are rarely useful to the shipping companies who use machinery and conveyor belts to move packages more efficiently. Workers are paid to be fast and efficient. Any package they handle must be able to withstand bouncing, stacking and temperature changes. Where a box ends up in a non-temperature controlled delivery vehicle is pure chance. The variations in sizes of boxes can make a truckload somewhat unstable, and shifting (and falling) is bound to happen occasionally.

Most violet mail order businesses have found ways to cope with these difficulties. However, occasionally leaves will get broken! No matter how securely plants are anchored inside a box, a hard enough bounce will jar plants and soil.

The quality of care during shipping does vary from one area of the country to another. If you know that one company provides superior service, advise the business so that they may choose the best method for you.

Packing a box of African violet plants and/or leaves to protect them during shipment takes care, and it takes time. Even a small order can take a half an hour to put together and pack. Since most commercials are very small businesses, there is often no one but the owner to do all the work. So again, have patience.

GOOD ADVICE

Commercial African violet growers learn a lot as they grow plants and ship to all areas of the country. They have access to inside information about the shipping industry that no amateur grower could know. They know what other growers have told them about how a specific variety grows in some areas. They know what laws govern certain areas. If a commercial makes a recommendation to you, accept that good advice. A fiasco (eg. the plants die and the business refuses to assume responsibility) can result when a customer insists on going against the advice of experience.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We've already discussed patience, listing substitutes, placing orders as early as possible, and listening to advice. We'll assume that you remember to write legibly, include a return address, and enclose the correct payment.

We also mentioned, but will stress again here, that **you must be ready to unpack your violet shipment as soon as it arrives.** Your plants need to be exposed to fresh air, light, and good temperatures as quickly as possible. The slower you are, the more likely that plants will suffer. If there are times when you will not be home to receive packages, either find someone who can accept the package and take care of the plants, or advise the commercial violet grower to avoid shipping at that time.

You also have a responsibility to communicate any problem with your order in a prompt and proper manner. Don't get mad and get even without ever trying to get satisfaction!

HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT A PROBLEM ORDER

First, assume that you are dealing with a nice African violet hobbyist who wants you to enjoy your violets too. Most of these growers are operating out of small growing areas in their home. They are not making huge profits (most barely make anything). They do it to satisfy the demand for violets. They love violets and want to make them available to you! They are not crooks! Knowing that, you may assume they will listen when there is a problem.

Second, be aware that some businesses have different methods of handling orders. For example, some acknowledge the receipt of an order immediately, others consider that the cashing of the check is your acknowledgment. While you may prefer one method over another, a business is not necessarily dishonest because they choose to do it differently. They may be choosing the least costly way of doing things so that they can continue to stay in business.

Third, the instant that you are aware that there might be a problem with a shipment you have received, call or write to them. Calling is definitely best. If you suspect that package was delayed en route, that it got too hot or cold, or that there is an insect or disease problem, you must notify them immediately. Similarly, if you are unhappy with the accuracy of the order or the value you received, you must let them know. This allows the shipper to investigate and to work toward a solution immediately. If you wait and complain two or three weeks later, you may not find the shipper willing to work with you. There is no area of the perishable plant market, whether violet shipper, florist, or nursery, that would honor complaints that are made late.

Next, when you call or complain be ready to give the details of what happened in an orderly detailed way. Do not assume that the listener will understand what you mean

when you use vague terms. "The plants are awful" is vague. "The plants arrived with moldy centers" is specific. If there are any extenuating circumstances, explain them. Don't ask the shipper to accept responsibility for something beyond his control.

Be ready to come up with a solution. If you complain for the sole purpose of venting your anger, everyone will be frustrated. The purpose of complaining is to obtain satisfaction. Complaining is a great way to discover that a business offers exceptional service. Be ready to ask for a refund or a replacement, or credit, but be ready to compromise if you were partly responsible for the problem.

DO NOT libel the shipper, especially without talking to them first! Talking to the shipper first can bring positive results; only talking about the shipper won't really help anyone. There have been some unfortunate situations recently where customers have called complaints to AVSA or maligned businesses on the internet and at club meetings without ever talking to the business. This can become a legal situation. If you have presented your case to the business in a proper and timely way, and if you are making reasonable requests that are being ignored, then you may have the right to seek out help from a higher authority, such as the AVSA Commercial Committee. If you haven't followed the right path, your complaint may be dismissed or at the very least be called into question.

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES

Easily 90% of all violet orders shipped arrive in reasonably good condition. Mistakes do happen. Customers can unwittingly make impossible demands. Businesses can foolishly try to do the impossible or try to cut corners. Mail sent to commercials placing orders or requesting lists are sometimes lost in the mail and never get to their destination, especially if they contain cash!

We have met African violet business owners who weren't very good managers. We have yet to meet one who really set out to cheat people deliberately. Unfortunately, there have been a few violet buyers out there who have lied about shipments received or who have failed to make payment. These few bad apples have made some business owners become quite defensive.

Commercials are concerned about their customers! Any good business person knows they are dependent upon repeat trade. Never forget that commercial growers are people too, and they encounter health and family problems like anyone else. Most do not make a lot of money at this business, and many have another job that pays the bills. They do love African violets, and they are performing a real service for the violet world.

There isn't anything quite like the excitement and anticipation of receiving a boxful of new and beautiful African violets. Get in on the fun!

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

The holiday season is over and it is time to start concentrating on the AVSA Convention in Sacramento and the Affiliate shows in our own areas. You will find all the convention information in this issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. Our convention is much earlier this year so be sure to take notice of the deadline dates on the various convention forms.

Perhaps the following discussion will serve as a "wake up" call to classification committees, exhibitors, and judges participating in the spring shows. Last year we had several instances of errors in the classification of some top award winners. The most prevalent of these errors was miniatures being selected as best semiminature or vice versa, trailers being selected as best miniature or semiminature, and non trailing varieties being selected as best trailer. All of these discrepancies were reported on the "And The Winners Are" report. Anytime errors of this nature are detected on the above report, the plant in question **WILL NOT** be reported in the "And the Winners Are..." column in the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.

Errors of this type should not be made. The first obligation lies with the exhibitor. Secondly, classification should detect these errors, and even though some judges have told me they should not be held responsible for this, I feel the judges **should verify** the classification of the top award winners. If we all do our jobs we can prevent these errors in the future.

Here are some questions that have been received.

- Q.** When is the judging of an Affiliate show officially closed? (This is in direct reference to the above discussion)
- A.** The judging would be considered closed when the judges complete the paper work and return the sealed envelope to the show chairman. Anytime a

classification error is detected by anyone (clerks, judges, show chair, judges chair, etc.) it should be reported to the classification committee chair and the judges **immediately** so the error can be corrected **before it is too late.**

- Q.** Is it a requirement to include all the "steps of propagation" on the Educational Exhibit?
- A.** No. This has been discussed in this column before but perhaps we need to discuss it again. You have a choice as to what you do on this exhibit. You may choose to have a variety or you may choose one topic such as lighting, soil mixes, plant foods, methods of watering, species, etc. You could use species and lead into modern cultivars and then add a few of the other gesneriads. It is okay to include some of the other gesneriads as long as you have used African violets and/or the culture and propagation of African violets.

Good luck in your spring shows and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Sacramento.

Please forget the new scale of points for judging new cultivars that I gave you in the September 1997 column. Two wrong words can make a world of difference in judging. Please use the following scale of points:

- Leaf pattern or form 25 points
Condition 10 points
Quantity of blooms
 (blossoms and buds showing color) . . 50 points
Blossom form (size and type) 15 points
Improvement or difference
 from any named variety 5 points

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

As I write this in early October, final work on a greenhouse attached to the rear of the shop, is about to be completed. Up until now all the plants had been grown under lights (lots of them), but we finally ran out of space. The greenhouse should effectively double the number of plants that can be grown. This will be my first experience growing violets "under glass, and by the time this column appears, winter will have arrived and the house should be full of plants. I've tried to anticipate all the likely problems this new environment will present, but I'm sure there's a few that will have to be resolved as they arise. We'll see.

As always, your questions are welcome but, because of my busy schedule a personal reply to every letter or e-mail can't be promised. I am always willing to answer phone calls since talking on the phone and working aren't mutually exclusive. I may also be e-mailed at robsviolet@aol.com. You might also want to check out our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. The site includes plenty of basic cultural information, including "how to" lessons on potting, propagation, etc. The AVSA site can be found at www.avsa.org.

QUESTION: *I wick water my plants and have noticed very tiny, thread-like insects hopping around on the surface of the soil and sometimes in the water. How do I get rid of these?*

ANSWER: What you most likely have are "springtails" which are long, thin, grayish-white insects perhaps 1/8" long. They can occasionally "hop" but often just wriggle around on the soil surface. Don't be overly concerned with their existence, first, because they usually do little harm to your violet, and second, because they are easily gotten rid of. Springtails feed on decaying organic matter in the soil and usually will damage the violet's root system only when there is a pre-existing problem such as root rot. To eliminate them many recommend a Malathion (1 tsp. 1 gal.

water) or Clorox (1 tblsp. 1 gal. water), but I find they can be easily eliminated without the use of any chemicals. Simply let the soil go dry before watering. Springtails thrive in wet soil, and if let dry thoroughly (but before wilting) you'll find that they will soon disappear.

Because plants that are "wicked" stay constantly wet, springtails can often be a problem for these plants. If you decide to wick-water, let the water reservoir (and soil) go dry before refilling. Besides controlling the springtail population, your violets will appreciate the short vacation from constantly wet feet. The soil will stay fresher longer and your violets will be healthier. In any event, I would strongly recommend not using (toxic) chemicals to control a problem when a nonchemical alternative is available and is just as effective. Even more so when the problem being attacked poses little danger to the health of the plant. Too many in our hobby are quick to reach for a chemical "quick-fix" when a safer (though sometimes less convenient) alternative can be used.

QUESTION: *My violets have seem to have suddenly stopped growing. The centers are tight and the new leaves seem to be deformed.*

ANSWER: This question is one that I recently received by phone and that I found particularly interesting. The answer was obvious, but didn't come to mind until the conversation was nearly ended and the critical information was finally divulged. The problem in this case was very acid water, or too low a pH. Neutral pH is 7.0 and violets prefer water and soil to be neutral to very slightly acid, in the approximate range of 6.7-7.0. A pH below 7.0 is considered acid, and above 7.0 is alkaline. If the soil/water becomes too acid or alkaline, nutrients in the soil become less available to the plant, so that even a well fertilized plant can suffer from malnutrition.

This particular grower had always used rain water to

water her plants. Rain water can often be quite acid, but for this grower it had never presented any problems over years of use, and we had eliminated all of the other likely causes of the problems. It was then revealed that the water had been collected as runoff from the roof, and that the home had just been reroofed. It was only then that her plants had begun to show signs of distress. Coincidentally, at that time I was having gutters added to the back of the barn, to keep water from running off of the roof and onto the glasshouse that would be built below. I have been told that the roof shingles make the runoff very acid, and I had been warned that the acidity of this runoff would etch the glass over time. The answer was suddenly very obvious! The water that was being used to water her violets was now too acid. If it were to be tested, it's likely that the pH would be far below 7.0. The previous, very old, roof had likely had enough of the acidic chemicals washed away over the years to make water collected from its runoff relatively harmless.

Even rainwater not collected in this way can present problems. I learned this when I moved to my present home, in a relatively rural area removed from industry or heavy traffic. Water that I collected in standing (plastic) barrels was not as clear and clean as I had expected. Along with the rain water was a surprising amount of soot and grime - it certainly was far from pure. Of course, "city" and well water can also have their problems (another story at another time). In any event, it's always a good idea to have the pH of both your soil and water tested, particularly if the source of either of these is changed.

QUESTION: *I see all kinds of advise about growing under lights but no one has committed themselves as to what type of fluorescents to use, "warm", "cool", or "grow-lights". Would you help me?*

ANSWER: This is a subject which requires more than a paragraph or two to adequately address. I'll keep the discussion simple for this reason (and because I'm far from an expert in this area). Basically the discussion revolves around two considerations: the light's "color" distribution and intensity. Very simply, light of different wavelengths ("color") are absorbed differently by the plant's leaves for photosynthesis (for growth). It's been found that light in the blue and red spectrum are most used by the plant. Artificial lights producing proportionally more light in these colors then, will presumably be more beneficial for the plant. Incandescent lights provide plenty of light in the "red" part of the spectrum, but these produce too much heat to be used successfully in growing violets. "Warm" and "cool" -white fluorescent bulbs generate less heat (and use less electricity) than incandescents and though they provide light in the blue part of the spectrum, provide very

little "red" light. "Grow-lights" have the advantage of providing much more of this "red" light.

In practice, however, light intensity seems more important in growing violets under artificial lights. Many people grow excellent violets under the ordinary, "cool-white" bulbs available at any hardware or department store. So long as the plants are getting enough light (length and intensity), the color spectrum seems of less importance. My personal experience has been that there is little apparent advantage to using any particular type of fluorescent bulb. For example, all of our show plants (and there are many) are grown under the cheapest "cool-white" bulbs found on sale at the hardware store, the "best" plants being grown under presumably the "worst" lights. We do use "Gro-lux WS" bulbs elsewhere in the shop, but only because these bulbs most closely approximate sunlight so that the "perceived" color that the customer sees in the shop is what they'll see at home in a window (i.e. "truth in advertising"). These bulbs are also much more pleasant to work under. But since show plants spend so much time disbudded and without bloom, why spend the extra money on expensive bulbs that are of little apparent benefit?

Finally, don't confuse light "intensity", with "efficiency". A bulb using less electricity, (watts) may simply produce the same light intensity, (lumens) more efficiently. Again, why not save money? These measures can change bulb to bulb, so be sure to "read the label" when purchasing bulbs.

QUESTION: *When should I repot a trailing violet into a larger pot?*

ANSWER: This depends on how you wish to display the plant. If you wish to grow the trailer as a "hanging" basket plant, you should use a smaller pot and let the "runners" trail over the pot's edge. A standard-size (larger leaved) variety might perhaps need a 5" to 7" pot when mature. Miniature and semiminiature varieties can be grown in a smaller pot. Shallow pots are best, since a violet's root system is relatively shallow, even for larger plants. Trailers grown this way often do best in "natural" (i.e. window) light since the vertical space isn't available on a light stand. It's also necessary to provide plenty of light from both the top and sides, to keep the plant from getting a "straggly" appearance, and this is best provided by a large window.

The other option is to grow these varieties as a "ground cover". Pot trailers into a wider pot as the runners begin to creep over the edge of the existing pot. When placed into a wider pot, the runners will simply continue to grow along the soil surface, rooting and producing new runners as it goes. Again, be sure to use shallow pots. Grown this way, the depth of the pot should be no more than perhaps 3".

Since wide, but shallow, pots are hard to find, I use "saucers" with holes drilled into the bottom for drainage. If deeper pots are used, add some drainage material, such as perlite, in the bottom when potting.

QUESTION: *My Streptocarpus has irregular sections that are missing from the edges of the leaves, as if something had been eating them. Any ideas?*

ANSWER: Actually this is something my "helper" experienced with a plant she had taken home from the shop. I've also been told similar stories by some of my violet growing friends. A week or so after telling me this she brought in a small black insect in a plastic baggie. She had found it on the plant and wondered whether it could have been the culprit. As it turns out it was. I couldn't identify it, but I knew who could. It just happened that a conference was being held by a large group of entomologists and plant pathologists in Rochester. Being only an hour's drive away, they had scheduled a tour of the

shop for the group. One of them quickly identified the insect as the "black vine weevil", a black wingless weevil about 3/8" long. All are female, do not fly, and disperse by walking or are transported by man or on infested material. Adult weevils feed on foliage, chewing out notches. Damage is usually not fatal, but often is unsightly. As larvae, the grubs feed on roots and underground stems, and can be more damaging than adults.

These are most commonly found on outside plants, but they can become nuisance pests when found indoors. Fortunately, infestations on houseplants are normally small, and control is best accomplished by removing adults by hand when found, even if they appear to be dead - it seems that the adults will "feign death" when disturbed! In any event, this is not likely to be a widespread problem for violet growers, but this mysterious plant damage has been described to me before. In this one instance it was nice to have the mystery solved.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

AVS Windsor, W. Hartford, CT.....	\$ 25.00	Fantasy VC, Brooksville, FL.....	\$ 5.00
Tristate AV Council (NY, NJ & PA).....	\$400.00	Frances Olson, Rush City, MN.....	\$ 10.00
<i>Purchase and installation of bronze plaque</i>		<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>	
<i>honoring the memory of Lizeta Hamilton</i>		Robert Johnson, Wheat Ridge, CO.....	\$ 7.00
The Violet Patch of South FL.....	\$ 25.00	<i>for Nell Sue Tyson memorial plaque</i>	
Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH.....	\$ 10.00	Fay Chadwick, Willow Grove, PA.....	\$ 10.00
Brenda Brown, Strafford, TX.....	\$ 20.00	<i>for memorial plaques to be displayed at AVSA office</i>	
Granada Hills AVS, Northridge, CA.....	\$ 25.00	San Marcos AVS, San Marcos, TX.....	\$ 10.00
<i>In memory of Fred Bickle</i>		<i>computer upgrade for AVSA office</i>	
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO.....	\$ 10.00	AVSA Executive Committee.....	\$ 80.00
<i>Beaumont Office computer up-grade</i>		<i>In memory of Past Presidents, Harvey Stone</i>	
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE.....	\$ 10.00	<i>and Anne Richardson</i>	
<i>In memory of Richard Jones,</i>		Frank & Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA.....	\$ 25.00
<i>husband of Barbara Jones, W. Chester, PA</i>		<i>for memorial plaques honoring Lizeta Hamilton</i>	
Lincoln AVS, Lincoln, NE.....	\$100.00	<i>and Nell Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>			
Union Co. Chapter AVSA, Roselle Park, NJ.....	\$ 25.00		
<i>computer upgrade at the AVSA office</i>			
		Total.....	\$817.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from August 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997

Leticia Potter, North Miami Beach, FL.....	\$100.00	AVC of Greater Kansas City, MO.....	\$ 62.00
Suzanne P. Altenburg, Houston, TX.....	\$ 10.00	<i>In memory of Frances Beaver</i>	
Allen Peek, Belleville, TX.....	\$ 3.39	Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO.....	\$ 10.00
The Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI.....	\$ 15.00	San Marcos AVS, San Marcos, TX.....	\$ 35.00
Metropolitan St. Louis Judges Council, St. Louis, MO.....	\$ 5.00	Anonymous.....	\$ 5.00
Martha Bibbins, Cambridge, MA.....	\$ 18.00	Bergen County AVS, Hakensack, NJ.....	\$ 25.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Roselle Park, NJ.....	\$ 50.00		
		Total.....	\$338.39

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

GATEWAY AVC, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Dunlap**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Irish Flirt, Joy's Pink Halo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Looking Glass; Best Miniature: Tamsen, **Ardath Miller**. Best Seminiature: Blue Blend, **Pat Dunlap**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Kevin Rice**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade', **Patty Smith**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chiffon Maritime Variegated, Chiffon Prince, Vintage Wine; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Stars'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Van Gogh, Chiffon Maritime Variegated, Favorite Child, **Martha Bell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best

Standard: Picasso; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Linda Berry**. Best Miniature: Rob's Fo Fum, **Ken Keipert**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Devil-may-care, Snowflake Hill; Best Standard: Margery's Melody, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Melodie Kimi, Rhapsodie Sonja, **Eric West**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Precious Pink, Teen Surprise; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Spring Peach, **Janice Bruns**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Pink Playmate, Irish Flirt, **Irene Merrell**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Rosalie Trevallee**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Fay Skews**. Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**.



Sacramento Convention '98 WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

They wore clothes that advertised their profession. Riverboat Captains, Gamblers, Ladies of the Night, and Miners. Civilians could be categorized as Bankers, Store Keepers, Cowboys, and Farmers, who in turn rubbed elbows with gunfighters.

This was the scene in Old Sacramento when gold was in its heyday. Everyone was trying to separate the miner from his hard earned gold.

It's not gold but there will be prizes for the best costumes representing this era at the Friday Night Banquet.

Surely one of the occupations mentioned above will trigger your imagination. Just a bandanna around your neck is a good start.

Barbara Elkin,
AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Chairman

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

Now that the weather has cooled down for winter, grower's often notice that their plants with colored edges are becoming solid colored while the plants with Geneva edges have never looked better. This change in flower color is due to a combination of genetics and environment. The genes for flower color make enzymes that produce the flower pigments. In some cases, these enzymes are sensitive to temperature and may not function if the temperatures are too warm or too cold. The enzymes of flowers with colored edges (raspberry edges excluded) function best at colder temperatures. When the temperature is too warm, the enzymes fail to make the flower pigments in the centers of the flowers, resulting in bicolors or edged flowers. When the temperature is cool, the enzymes can function and more and more of the flower will become colored. Under very cool conditions, the flowers may become completely colored. The white edges of Geneva flowers result when the growing temperatures are too cool for the enzymes to function. Under warm conditions, the flowers are able to make the pigment and the edges will become fully colored.

If your flowers are not showing the "proper" colors, try switching the plant to a different growing temperature. As the new flower buds form, the temperature sensitive enzymes will respond to the changed conditions and should produce the "proper" colored flowers.

Q: *I recently found a plant with star-shaped flowers where the "upper" two petals were tipped with a darker color. How would I breed more of this type of tipped flower?*

A: Congratulations for finding such an interesting plant! The tipped bloom trait has generally been reported as a genetic dominant and should breed true in the first generation. What is interesting in this case, however,

is the combination of tipped blooms with star-shaped flowers. Most star-shaped blooms should be tipped equally on all 5 petals, not just the "upper" two. Your plant is not totally following "the rules" on how these two traits should be expressed together.

Try crossing the plant with another star-shaped bloom cultivar. Star-shaped blooms are recessive and this cross should give 100% star-shaped offspring. If the tipped bloom trait is indeed inherited as a dominant, you should get 50-100% tipped blooms. If you get results other than this, be sure to let me know. It might mean you have something unusual that will need further study.

Q: *If you only have one plant of a cultivar and it produces variable blooms, how do you know when the plant is sporting or when variable flowers is the normal thing the plant is supposed to do?*

A: The best way to solve this dilemma is to check the hybridizer's description and the Master Variety List. If the plant normally produces variable flowers, this should be noted in the description. If the plant has been correctly labeled (always something to keep in mind), then the description and plant should match. If they don't match, then the plant may have sported.

Another method is to check with other growers who have grown this same cultivar. A quick check with others will usually help determine if the plant is variable or has sported.

Q: *What controls the distribution of fantasy dots across the bloom surface?*

A: The distribution of fantasy dots appears to be the result of random chance. The gene that causes

fantasy is unstable and keeps switching off and on. If the gene is not working, pink shades are the result. In the few cells that have a working copy of the gene, the blue pigment is made and a fantasy "spot" is made.

The size and number of the spots is also the product of how many copies of the fantasy gene the plant has. If the plant is heterozygous and only has one copy, then the chance that the gene will work is lower and few blue spots will be produced. When the plant is homozygous dominant for fantasy, then each cell has two copies of the gene. This increases the likelihood that at least one copy of the gene will be switched on, producing more blue fantasy dots. Plants with two copies of the gene are easily detected because of the higher number of fantasy dots produced in their blooms.

The homozygous plants are very desirable for plant breeding. Since they have two copies of the gene, all of their offspring will inherit the fantasy trait, giving 100% fantasy in the next generation.

Q: *If I cross a plant which has pale lavender flowers with a plant with puff fantasy, can I get a plant which has pink puffs on a lavender background?*

A: Yes, there is a chance that this cross would give you offspring having pink puffs on a lavender background. However, the genetic combination that produces lavender flower color does not breed true. Many of your offspring will likely have pink background, rather than lavender. You may need to grow out a large number of seedlings to find one with a lavender background.

You might also try crossing the lavender flowered plant to a puff fantasy plant that has pink puffs on a red background, rather than blue. The different background color may "mix" things up more genetically and give you a higher chance of getting a lavender background. Good luck!

Q: *Can mosaic and crown variegation be combined into the same plant?*

A: The mutations that give mosaic and crown variegation are found in the chloroplasts. The chloroplasts are inherited from the seed parent. In order to get both combined into one plant, the seed parent would already have to have this combination. Therefore, I would not expect this combination to normally be possible.

However, I do have a seedling in my collection that appears to be a possible combination of mosaic and crown variegation. The seed parent of this seedling was a crown variegated plant 'Berry Splash' and the pollen parent was a mosaic variegated plant, 'Art Deco'. The foliage is marked in the mosaic pattern, but the variegation is only seen in the young leaves of the plant. When the leaves mature, the mosaic pattern disappears and the leaves become solid green. This loss of variegation is the same as that observed in crown variegated plants, so perhaps this seedling is a combination of the two foliage mutations. Several seedlings of this same cross had "traditional" mosaic variegation while others appeared to be solid green. The results were not the expected 100% seedlings with crown variegation, so something would appear to be unusual about the cross.

In Memory

Evan Paul Roberts

Dr. Evan Paul Roberts, an early supporter of AVSA, member of the Scientific Committee in the early 1950's and frequent contributor to the African Violet magazine recently passed away.

Dr. Roberts, of the Department of Horticulture of Michigan State College, was very active in the world of African violets in the early days. A gifted writer, his first contribution to the AVM appeared in the second issue in 1947.

"In the part of Africa near where Stanley met Dr. Livingstone, where Mt. Kilimanjaro towers 19,000 feet to be Africa's highest peak, where Lake Victoria, the source of the Nile, originates and where the world's newest diamond mine is located, you'll find the home of the African violet."

In April, 1948, Dr. Roberts was successful in securing and importing plants of three new species of

African violets from Africa, describing them in detail for the readers of the AVM. He also contributed many articles on diseases that affected African violets, offering descriptions of the symptoms and methods of prevention.

At AVSA's fifth convention, Dayton, OH, 1951, Dr. Roberts gave a well-received presentation on the nine *Saintpaulia* species then known to be in existence. His various contributions helped advance the interest in African violets, and provided early members of this society with valuable information.



Evan Paul Roberts



Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

KEEPING 'EM "IN SIZE"

The greatest struggle in growing the small ones is trying to keep them "in size," meaning, within the size limits set by AVSA. Specifically, the diameter of the plant must not exceed 8 inches for a semiminature and 6 inches for a miniature. The blooms may go over this limit, but not the foliage. This measurement should be taken using a circle constructed from cardboard, plastic, etc. set at the exact limits, or more easily, using an embroidery or macrame hoop of metal or wood. (Warning: these hoops can measure 8 or 6 inches around the outer or inner edge, so be sure and measure the inner dimension exactly, using a ruler so you know the exact parameters before you measure a plant. Using the inner edge is not reliable.) The hoop or circle should be slowly, carefully dropped over the plant (as in moved from a higher to lower position, as opposed to "sudden"), keeping it as horizontal as possible. If any leaf touches the edge, allowing for any deviations, the plant must be worked with: remove a leaf or leaves to bring it back into symmetry, or as is often the case, leave the plant at home. Note also, do not set the ring on the table placing the plant inside and then "eyeball" it. This leads to an errant measurement (trust me, it does...it has something to do with physics)! As always, give the exhibitor the benefit of the doubt.

IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE

Having said all the above, let's take a step back. This rule applies ONLY if you are growing for show. If you are a home grower and love your plants "just because", you can ignore it. You can grow an 8 inch miniature, and just as long as you're happy with it, so be it. However, most of us grow the small ones because we have space limitations. Our whole purpose in purchasing them is because we can comfortably get four 6 inch plants on our kitchen window sill. Or we only have one light, and 32 small ones can be grown under it instead of eight standards. For years I grew all my miniatures on top of my upright piano under a 24 inch light. Those were the days my small ones were

misunderstood and just barely tolerated. (These were also the days my standards were packed under shop lights, leaves madly intertwined, but blooming happily.) I knew there were size limits imposed, but my primary purpose was blooms and enjoyment . . . size mattered little.

STRATEGIES FOR HAPPINESS

Because so many of us grow small ones to conserve space we must make an effort to keep them small. Our starting point is the Master Variety List or the hybridizer's list which identifies how the plants should be grown: either miniature or semiminature, and sometimes micro miniature. What this really tells us is under the hybridizers conditions, a particular plant behaves in a certain manner. As growers we are left to calculate how it will grow in our conditions. For example, Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson lives in temperate western New York state. He undergoes milder summers, and long, cold winters. Contrast that with Hortense Pittman, whose growing conditions are influenced by very hot summers, and mild winters. Rob's plants have a tendency to grow too big in warmer climates. Hortense's plants stay very small in cooler conditions. So our first strategy is to consider the hybridizer's environment in comparison with our own when selecting plants.

A second strategy is to offer less fertilizer, a practice I have heard some people advocate. Theoretically, growth will be less than ideal, which in and of itself will keep a plant small. Compare any plant that is well fertilized with one that is starved. The leaves of the former will be "lush": greener, larger and thicker. It will be more resistant to disease. If it's a blooming plant, its blooms will be larger, more colorful and abundant. In other words, I can't recommend this practice. It's better to give the offending plant away to someone who has room for it than to purposefully get less than optimum results. An option that is more acceptable is to use a typical African violet fertilizer as compared to another fertilizer that emphasizes foliar growth. Thus, we would use a 12-36-14 rather than a 20-20-20 or a 15-30-15 and not a 19-23-17. Again, the

emphasis would be on blooms, not foliage. May I also suggest that foliar feeding is beneficial to our small ones, and done prudently does not cause them to go over size. The plant's size will be more dependent on your primary fertilizer and not an occasional foliar feeding.

Another strategy is using small pots for plants that tend to ignore your desire for them to stay in size. Semiminiatures are placed in 2 1/4 or 2 1/8 inch pots, sometimes less. Miniatures are grown in 2 inch or less pots. There are those plants which will not cooperate even at this point. For them, the answer is miniaturizing. This is the process whereby plantlets are potted into very tiny thumb pots less than 1 inch in diameter or in 1 ounce solo cups having the effect of restricting the root growth and causing the violet to be "bonsai-ed." Very adorable plants are the result of this process, but again, a price is paid. Because of the smaller root system, less bloom often results.

Another strategy is to simply let our small ones bloom which is not a novel concept, however, to the showman it's taboo. There are two primary reasons for removing bloom stalks before they develop (better known as disbudding): it creates larger, more lush foliage, and minimizes the thrips population. Every showman knows one of the side effects of allowing plants to come into full bloom is smaller center leaves. By allowing our plants to bloom constantly they will more easily stay in size. Essentially, smaller leaves are exchanged for well-timed, massive, and thripless heads of bloom.

THE SHOWMAN'S DILEMMA

By now, we should all have a better appreciation of the person who grows and shows the small ones. Because of the size restrictions on the plants, showmen have a greater onus upon them than merely growing a great plant. They must grow a great plant while incorporating restrictions that take away from growing a great plant. If they miniaturize they will be criticized for not having enough bloom despite the obvious talent it takes to successfully miniaturize. They must carefully watch the fertilizer to make sure it's not too potent, manage the pot size, carefully disbud, and be cognizant of the hybridizer in order to come

up with a great combination for a show plant. They must know their plant inside and out, knowing exactly which combination will work for which plant.

READER'S WRITE

Pat Soares in California writes:

"I really got an adrenaline surge when I got to the miniaturizing section (of your column) . . . If the poor plant can be kept badly pot bound, a lot of beautiful, healthy growth removed, then by heroic measures forced into bloom, that makes it a mini or semi.

"I wonder if perhaps we need to rethink our class requirements. Instead of the width 6"-8" . . . perhaps leaf size would be more sensible. 1 inch and less could be mini, no matter how large and beautiful, 1 to 2 inches semi mini, and over 2 inches standard. We might also consider adding a miniaturized class for any variety, to show the skill of the growers who enjoy miniaturizing."

One of the first individuals to communicate with me about my column was **Edward Bradford** of New York, a preeminent grower of the small ones. He stated emphatically, "Small ones should be classified not by how big they grow, or are allowed to grow, but by leaf size alone." He felt this was particularly true of trailers.

And consider this thoughtful piece from **Joyce Stork**, who says, "From the beginning, hybridizers can tell by the size of the leaf what type of plant it will be. They don't grow it for a year and wait, they look at the leaf size." She adds, "Violets should be judged by how many rows of magnificent leaves are there. Rarely do we see really mature minis and semis with the many rows of leaves that are possible . . . It's the size and multiple layers that catch the imagination of the public."

As always, I encourage discussion on this subject and would be most happy to hear any thoughts you have on the subject of keeping 'em in size.

NEXT TIME

Our March issue will feature another guest columnist, this time from the middle of the country. Expert grower Jan Bruns of Illinois has agreed to provide us with her thoughts on growing the small ones. See you in May!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive
Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT \$50.00
The AV Club of Greater Atlanta \$30.00
In memory of Frances Barnes
Hoosier AVS, Crown Point, IN \$10.00
In memory of Charter Member, Marie Sons
NASA AVS, League City, TX \$50.00
In memory of Cecil Fryday
The Violet Patch of South FL, Ft. Lauderdale \$25.00
Crosstown AV Club, Madison, WI \$25.00

Town & Country AVS, Yucaipa, CA \$50.00
In lieu of a speaker fee to Leonard Rey
Donna R. Williams, Olympia, WA \$10.00
Nobuyuki Takano, Japan \$10.00
First Denton AVS, Denton, TX \$20.00
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO \$10.00
Northern California Council AVS \$25.00
Berger County AVS, Bergen County, NJ \$25.00
Montrose AVS, Montrose, CA \$25.00
In loving memory of Helen M. Carpenter

Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers, Littleton, CO \$25.00
Four Seasons AVC, Port Arthur, TX \$20.00
Annie B. Perry, Trenton, NJ \$10.00
Papathi Marimoto, Singapore \$20.00
Margaret V. Barbi, Flushing, NY \$ 5.00
Town & Country AVS, Painesville, OH \$25.00
Cynthia A. Crater, Colorado Springs, CO \$10.00
Joan Baker, Thief River Falls, MN \$ 4.00



WHY JOIN AN AFFILIATE?

Bev Promersberger - Affiliate Committee

17415 Charter Pines Drive

Monument, CO 80132

"I went to a club meeting to learn how not to kill my violet." This is just one of the answers I received from a survey I conducted of AVSA Affiliates and members across the United States.

The first question I asked people was, "Why did you join a local affiliate?" The most common reason, without a doubt, was first of all, to learn how to grow African violets and secondly, how to grow them better.

People joined local AVSA affiliates because they hoped to learn more about African violets from people who knew more. They wanted to grow beautiful plants like they saw at a mall sale or at a local show. They desired to spend time with people who shared their hobby. One lady needed to make sure that she learned how to care for the African violet she received from her mother-in-law when she first got married. She now has 1,100 plants, has become a judge and shares her knowledge of design with other affiliates.

One member was looking for "an outlet from being a HOUSEWIFE." Another member found a chance to meet and fellowship with people in the area, something she didn't have time to do when she was raising her children. Other members joined to exchange ideas about growing or to exchange leaves from new and different varieties. Some even joined because they were interested in "showing."

I joined a local society because my husband encouraged me. I had three violets in my front window that were growing and blooming well. He thought I might be able to find a source for new varieties. Little did he know what it would lead to! I do have to remind him now and then how I got started!

The second question I asked was, "What did you gain from being a member of an affiliate?" Almost everyone who responded not only received what they had joined for, but much more. The most common response was friends and friendships. "Friendships I'll treasure," "wonderful friends," "lifelong friends," and "unnumbered friends I would never have known under other circumstances," are just a few of the many comments.

One member commented that her affiliate "provided exposure to and availability of many new and exciting varieties." Even though she had been introduced to African violets by her grandmother and had been growing

them since she was a teenager, she was unaware that anything besides the grocery store varieties existed. Through membership in her local affiliate, she has become a more serious grower.

Most members have not only increased their knowledge of the African violet and how to grow them, but they have become interested in showing, judging, and in sharing their knowledge by presenting programs to other affiliates as well as their own. Others learned how to propagate and to incorporate their love of violets into container gardens and designs.

Like many members, one commented that she was not only exposed to many new varieties of the African violet but to other gesneriads as well. In addition to receiving answers she was looking for she gained an "unlimited thirst" for more plants, violets and other gesneriads. One member "expanded" her plant collection and another is "swamped" with beautiful African violets. Sound familiar?

Having moved around as much as I have, I have grown to appreciate the need for the local affiliate even more. Areas differ in more ways than I ever anticipated. The local affiliate should be the best source for your local answers: problems common to the area, soil mixes that are better for use in a particular area, local water conditions, even when to stop disbudding for show.

One local member shared that it's more than getting educated. It's personal, more accessible. You can call a local member if you have a problem. Another member summed her affiliate membership in these words, "I've gained much more than I hoped for and a world of beauty and pleasure beside."

If you're not a member of a local affiliate and are interested in learning more about growing the African violet and the people who grow them, check the September '96 issue of the African Violet Magazine for the local club nearest you. If there isn't one, contact me by mail or E-mail <promers@juno.com> for a packet of information which will give you all the information you need to start a new affiliate.

We would still appreciate your sharing a copy of your yearbook and newsletter. It is one of the best ways for us to see what you are doing. Let us continue to share and grow together.

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

In the last issue I regaled you with a lot of fish stories. This time I am writing about Vintage Violets and their growing popularity.

What I forgot to mention is that Linda Golubski, Chairman of the Awards Committee, petitioned the AVSA Board about making a special class for Vintage Violets in Convention Shows. It passed and we now have our own class. The two societies I belong to, have followed suit. With their own class, these plants don't compete with the newer and better blooming plants. If your members are growing some of these older plants, why not make a separate class for them too.

As a Teacher and Senior Judge, I would like to ask all Judges judging this class to remember that some of these

plants are over thirty years old and don't bloom as heavily as some of the more recent introductions. In other words, show some respect for your elders!

I am in the process of growing some real old varieties and find that they are just as lovely as the newer ones but don't bloom as freely. Case in point is 'Ruffled Queen', a Supreme. Twelve flowers is about all this old girl can come up with. I've boosted it with all the modern fertilizers and still only twelve flowers. (Somehow I feel a kindred spirit here.)

Remember, when getting a start of something from someone good enough to send it, always return the postage. If you are asking me for information, always enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope for my reply.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Amethyst
Clipper
Crown of Red
Dare Devil
Innocent Flirtation
Interlude

Joann
Kiss't
Lavender Lady
Lilac Puff
Mermaid
Michelle

Norseman
Red and White
Renee
Roseberry
Shannon Renee
Sheryl's Renee

Shine Boy
Skagit Ambassador
Sky Magic
Viking
Whisper Valley

Attention Affiliates

At the recent meeting of the AVSA Executive Committee, it was decided to remove the Affiliate Publications section from the Handbook. A number of judges' groups had made this suggestion and since the Handbook is being reprinted, the Executive Committee felt that this should be done prior to the reprinting.

1998 AVSA Board of Director Nominees



For Director: Dolores Gibbs of San Marcos, Texas has been a member of AVSA for 21 years, is a Life Member and Advanced Judge. She is a charter member of First Austin AVS and has presided as president, vice president, and served on various committees within the club.

She has also been a member of Central Texas Judges Council since becoming a judge, serving as president for 2 years. As a member of Lone Star AV Council she is serving as historian and on the Executive Board, and will be convention chairman for the 1998 State Convention.

Her first AVSA Convention was in August 1978, and she has attended seven in all. Dolores enjoys growing violets for competition and for the club sales, and has won many awards over the years, including Best of Show. She is also very interested in the other gesneriads and container gardens. She won Best Container Garden in Affiliate, Lone Star, Dixie and in 1996 in the AVSA National Show at Atlanta. Married for 48 years, Dolores has four children and five grandchildren. She enjoys traveling and being with her grandchildren.



For Director: Olive Ma, of Taiwan, has enjoyed gardening since childhood. A graduate of Providence College, Olive majored in Western Language and Literature.

The jobs she had after graduation were mostly related to English, international trade, language school, and immigration before she began running a little nursery; Violetfun Greenhouse. Her many hobbies include sewing, cooking, handicrafts, woodwork, Chinese brush writing, Chinese paper cutting, playing guitar, photography and traveling. She also plays basketball, volleyball, badminton and ping pong. Attending the AVSA convention each year allows her to visit different places.



Besides her membership in AVSA, Olive is also a member of the Taiwan AVC, where she serves as secretary, and the Japan Saintpaulia Society.



For Director: Wilma Namumnart of Hawaii, has been a member of AVSA for 2 years and has over two hundred African violet plants growing in various places in her home and office. She has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Public Administration. She is a

licensed civil engineer in the State of Hawaii and works for the City and County of Honolulu in the Department of Public Works/Refuse Division. She has three children. In addition to growing African violets, she likes sewing, quilting, computers, theater work, and travel.

The African Violet Society of Hawaii is an elite group which holds informal meetings and no judged events since there are no qualified judges in Hawaii. The group meets to share growing methods, new ideas, and plants.



For Director: Patricia J. Sutton, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has been a member of AVSA since 1978 and is a Senior Judge. Pat has been a member of the AVS of Greater Tulsa since 1978 and is currently serving as vice-president, for the second time. She has served the club as president four times, show chairman five times and twice as treasurer. Pat is also a member of the Missouri Valley AV Council and is currently judges chairman.

Pat attended her first AVSA convention in 1988 and has attended every convention since.



A native of Oklahoma, Pat has been married for over forty years and has three children and four grandchildren. Her hobbies include genealogy and antiques.



For Director: Mary Ann Switzer of Chesterfield, Missouri, has been an AVSA member since 1973 and an AVSA Life Member since 1983. In the past she has served as president of the Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council and the West County

AV Club. She is now president of the Amethyst AVC. She also belongs to the Missouri Valley AV Council. She has attended eleven AVSA conventions.

Mary Ann enjoys writing "how to" articles for the African Violet Magazine. She has received two certificates of appreciation from AVSA for her articles which include: "How To Build A Plant Stand", "Make A Travel Case For Your Violets" and "Successful Propagating From Bloom Stalks".

Mary Ann has a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Louis University and worked as a welfare caseworker before her children were born. Mary Ann has been married for twenty-five years, and has two children who are college students. When not working with her African violets and *Streptocarpus*, Mary Ann enjoys the hobbies of stained glass, quilting and outdoor gardening.

Not Dead Yet

by Elizabeth Whitesides
Raleigh, NC

African violets have a reputation for being temperamental, fussy, and delicate. To some extent they are, but they are also extremely tenacious creatures, able to bounce back from even the most idiotic blunders of their caretakers. This summer I was able to witness this fine character trait firsthand.

Last spring I noticed the centers of a few of my violets looked strange - sort of tight and distorted. I feared it was cyclamen mites. Not being a big fan of inorganic pesticides, I decided to try the hot water treatment, a technique I read about in several postings on *Gesneriphiles* (the Gesneriad e-mail group). Cyclamen mites are killed by heat, so with this technique, one immerses an affected violet in 110 to 115 degree F water for 15 to 20 minutes. Some of the people who tried this method reported great success and no damage to their plants. I was not so fortunate.

As a preventative, I decided to use this method on all the plants around the affected ones, including an old, sentimental favorite. After I finished immersing the plants, I set them on the counter to dry. They looked fine. My husband and I went out on some errands, and when I returned a few hours later, all of those plants had completely collapsed into a pile of slime. I had cooked every one of them! Apparently my candy thermometer is not very accurate - no wonder my fudge never comes out right!

Of course I was upset, but especially so over my old favorite. I do not know this violet's real name, but I call her

"Aunt Gert" after my 96 year old great-aunt whose African violet collection inspired me to start one of my own. All the dead plants went into the trash except "Aunt Gert" - I just couldn't let her go. Only two small leaves remained, the rest were cooked to brown mush, including most of the main stem. I removed the slimy, cooked leaves and crown, scraped off the mush from the stem, and repotted what was left into a 2-cup plastic deli container.

For weeks nothing happened, but I was encouraged that the two remaining leaves were hanging in there. Eventually several new crowns started to form. I waited a few more weeks and removed all but the two best looking ones. When these crowns were big enough, I rooted them on their own. Today, seven months later, I have two 4" plants that are putting up their first blooms!

There are several morals to this story. The first one was provided by my husband upon first surveying the damage I had wrought: "Next time you try something new, just do it on one or two plants first!" Second, make sure you are applying the right solution to the right problem. My problem actually turned out to be a little too much light and food. Third, do not be too quick to give up on your plants, even if they look hopeless (it does not get much more hopeless than cooked!). If there is a glimmer of life left, there is hope. With a little TLC, those temperamental, fussy, delicate violets may just show you how tough they really are.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$100. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

***DeceIles' Defi** (8658) 8/18/97 (Brownlie/Decelles)
Semidouble blue-purple pansy/pink fantasy.
Variegated medium green and cream, plain.
Standard

.....

Alannah Regan - Danville, WA

***Futuriste** (8659) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble
mauve star/darker veining, raspberry edge.
Variegated medium-dark green, cream and pink,
quilted. **Standard**

***Lambert Closse** (8660) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau)
Semidouble lavender-red large star. **Variegated**
medium green and cream. **Standard**

***Phobos** (8661) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble
burgundy star/pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted.
Large

***Scenario** (8662) 9/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble
violet-red/variable purple edge. **Variegated** medium
green, cream and light pink, quilted. **Large**

.....

Denis Croteau -Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

***Alliance** (8663) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble
medium blue star/white and pink fantasy. **Variegated**
green, cream and pink. **Standard**

***Dora Picard** (8664) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble
light pink star/variable raspberry edge. **Variegated**
medium green, cream-pink and tan. **Standard**

***Lucien Croteau** (8665) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau)
Semidouble plum pansy/pink fantasy. **Variegated**
medium green, cream and pink, quilted. **Standard**

***Stephanie Croteau** (8666) 9/27/97 (D. Croteau)
Semidouble dark purple star/dark coral fantasy, white
edge. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

Attention Affiliates

If you would like to have your yearbook, newsletter, or magazine displayed at the Convention in Sacramento, please send them to: **Beverly Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. Please mail by 3/15/98.**

These Affiliate Publications will be displayed in

the show so visitors may look at them and get ideas. After the show Beverly will use them in Affiliate Packets. Remember, **your publications are not being judged and do not have to follow any set rules** so if you feel they are worthy of sharing, send them in!

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY



by Henry B. Rinick, Jr. • Gulf African Violet Club
Cape Coral/Fort Myers, Florida

Anna-Marie and I have been married for over 39 years. We have raised 3 children to adults and currently have 5 lovely grandchildren. We lived in western New York state for 27 years and thought that we were having "fun". In 1988, we moved to south-western Florida, Cape Coral, near Fort Myers, which is 120 miles south of Tampa. This sub-tropical area is "paradise" and now we really are having "fun".

Anna-Marie is artistically talented and is a perfectionist in everything that she does; cooking, sewing, knitting, cross-stitching, making Christmas decorations using sea shells that we collect, and of course, giving "tender love and care" to her African violets.

Up north she always worked in the yard and really enjoyed her flowers outside as well as her house plants. In Florida, we have many "critters" outside, including snakes, of which she is petrified. (Coral, Pygmy Rattlesnakes, Diamondback Rattlesnakes, and dozens of non-poisonous varieties). There are also Fire Ants, Brown Recluse poisonous spiders, and many other members of the animal kingdom. These are just a few of the reasons that she doesn't enjoy working in the outside yard in Florida. However, she became more interested in indoor house plants and especially African violets.

In November 1995, we saw an announcement about a sale of plants, sponsored by the Gulf African Violet Club at a local shopping mall. There were to be lectures and demonstrations about growing African violets throughout the hours of the sale. Anna-Marie had purchased several plants prior to this and we couldn't understand why they stopped blooming, so we decided to go to the sale. The demonstrations were very enlightening and educational. We learned about repotting, reservoir-wick watering, soilless potting mixture, leaf propagation, etc. We were there for about 3 hours absorbing all the information and seeing the beautiful African violets. We purchased several flowering plants and leaves and since we spent so much time there, they invited us to their next meeting.

After attending 3 or 4 meetings we decided to join the organization. At every one of the meetings, there was a major subject program, more discussions or demonstrations, door prizes of leaves, and sale of starter plants. We were "hooked" on growing African violets for show.

We didn't have a light stand, but we have 5, 15-watt fluorescent lights under the cabinets in the kitchen which

we used for the African violets. Anna-Marie entered 2 plants at the Gulf African Violet Club Show in March 1996. Her 'Snow Squall' received Best of Section, and Best of Class and a blue ribbon. 'Lacy Parasol' won a blue ribbon. These awards were "icing on the cake".

We became more involved with the workings of the club and Anna-Marie purchased a 5-shelf PVC stand, 36" long, 18" wide, and 72" high, with 18" between the shelves. She also purchased 2, 20-watt fluorescent bulbs to go over each of the shelves. It didn't take too much time to fill the new plant stand.

There are also plants along the kitchen shelves, along with some on window sills in each of the three bedrooms and a window sill in one bathroom (which she used to isolate some of the plants). Currently the count is over 300 plants!

At the March 1997 show of the Gulf African Violet Club, Anna-Marie entered 33 plants, of which 31 received blue ribbons. Her other awards were, Horticultural Award for most ribbons and awards, the AVSA Standard Collection Award with 'Evening Shade', 'Snow Squall', and 'Rose Picturesque'; Best Standard Award with 'Illini Peace' which also won Best of Section and Best of Class. She also won Best of Class for several other varieties. I believe this is phenomenal for her first serious show. Fantastic! (I told you that she is a perfectionist).

Oh, by the way, I entered 4 plants in the March 1997 show and won 3 blue ribbons, received Best of Section and Best of Class with 'Groovy' Sport and won Best of Section and Best of Class in the Novice Division with 'Optimara Hawaii'. Not too bad for a novice!

At the Florida State Show in Tampa, we met Carol Schreck and volunteered to help her at the Registration Desk during the AVSA convention in St. Petersburg, in June 1997. After attending this convention and working our "fannies" off, we both feel that this was an experience of a lifetime; very rewarding and educational. We met a lot of people that we were reading about; Rita Hilton, L. T. Ozio, Dr. Charles Cole and many others. Learning cultural practices, pest control, and sharing ideas with other members are some of the reasons for attending any African violet show. As you read this, you can see that Anna-Marie and I are really African Violet lovers, as are you. Joining our local club, and AVSA, have been rewarding experiences for us both.

EVERYONE IS AN EXPERT

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI

"I chop up banana peels and put them on top of the pot of my African violets" the lady said as she approached us at our booth during a sale. She claimed that this addition was the cause of beautiful flowers on her plant.

That is only one of the many comments we have heard during or after our many workshops on raising and caring for these colorful plants.

Of course most of us have heard about coffee grounds used in the same way. Tea leaves are also frequently mentioned as the ideal additive. One wonders how soon the pot is full of the material and whether a larger pot is used when the smaller one is filled.

We have long since avoided any arguments to the contrary about these ideas because, first of all, we have never tried to use these additives. In the second place, the people who tell us about these activities are so proud of their success that we would never think of belittling the things they do. Thirdly, while we like to think that modern day fertilizer solves the problems calling for additives, the folks who use them probably started the practice before the chemicals became readily available. In point of fact, they probably do, in their own way, fertilize the plant.

These ideas however, hardly scratch the surface of suggestions that people make. There is the group of AV lovers who insist that watering from below is the only way to go. Others say water from the top. Of course other types of watering including mat and reservoir are also related. We must say though, that in our area of coverage, few people have ever heard of the wick and reservoir system.

The correct window in which to locate violets is another familiar comment made by proud growers. Some say an east window, some say west, some say south, and invariably there is a proponent of the north window. In each case the person telling the tale has success or they probably would not brag about it. Who are we to tell them that they are not correct?

Water also comes into play in a different way because the folks at shows and sales always bring up the idea of never getting the stuff on the leaves. In one case where we conducted a workshop in a florist's greenhouse, the owner asked us to tell him why the leaves on the African violets that he was attempting to reflower were badly spotted. These plants were under a shelf and were about as badly discolored as any plants we have ever seen. As

the man told the tale, all of the plants in that section were watered by means of a hose spraying cold water at random. We explained that his plants should be watered by hand. If it was necessary to do so with a spray, it should at least be with room temperature water.

One lady criticized our use of plastic pots. She bragged that her plants in clay pots were doing beautifully. Another person commented about the small size of our 3-3 1/2" containers. She noted that hers were all in much larger pots.

After one workshop, we were approached by an individual who explained that the violets he owned were generally left on the sun porch of his Florida home. Suddenly all of them curled up and died. He wondered if we could tell him what caused that to happen. After questioning further, we discovered that a rare cold snap had lowered the temperature for two nights to 28°.

Another individual who complained that the plant died seemingly overnight was quizzed further. In that case she told us that she had just refilled the water reservoir and had simply dumped a quantity of fertilizer into the container. She went on to tell about the bright blue color that resulted. It was obvious that the quantity of fertilizer was too great for the plant to tolerate.

Regularly people who attend the workshops tell us that they have never had success in growing African violets. Those are perhaps the most difficult individuals to work with because having experienced failure, they are extremely reluctant to try again. More often than not, they are so insistent that African violets are impossible to raise that they show no indication of a willingness to try again. With them we simply smile and sadly shake our head.

In our last endeavor at a senior citizen workshop, there was one lady whose face seemed familiar. We asked her why and her explanation was that this was the third of our programs that she had attended and had learned something new each time. We do love people like that.

Probably the most interesting contact is the lady who telephoned to say that the violet she had purchased three weeks before was no longer in flower. She asked if she could bring it back and trade it in on another plant that was in flower. We tried to explain that African violets periodically go in and out of flower. We never had a chance to explain about the risks we would be taking introducing insects into our collection because she had indignantly banged the received down in our ear.

To all of those who brag about their successes, whether it be through banana peels, coffee grounds, or other ideas, we say "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." For those who have problems, we attempt to help if they ask. For those who angrily reject any help, we smile, shrug our shoulders, and gently ease ourselves away.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



VIOLETS IN RETIREMENT

by Joan Halford
South Africa

After fifty four years of married farm life, Colin and I made the momentous decision to retire to a large, three bedroom house in a retirement village, while leaving our family to keep the home fires burning and our business in their capable hands.

Our motive was top security - twenty four hours around the clock and a nursing staff at our beck and call. This was probably the most difficult decision we've ever had to make. Colin had lived on our farm for eighty one years and to me, it meant that twenty five years of growing and showing African violets would have to be very drastically curtailed. My intention was to close down two growing rooms, as the cost of electricity has become exorbitant. I have kept one outdoor greenhouse operative with heating supplied by a very thirsty diesel oil heater!

The Transvaal African Violet Society had scheduled their 1996 Annual Show for the end of October and our move was to take place twelve days later, while I was still President and Show Chairman. Here in South Africa, sales of starter plants at meetings and shows are almost nil. Members and public alike want twelve to twenty five inch plants in full bloom! For months before the show I was working ten hour days with one assistant getting one thousand plants and potting mix ready for the sales room. I was not going to be an exhibitor, or so I thought!

Six weeks before the show I was unexpectedly forced to exhibit, which sent me into a frenzy of repotting, grooming, washing, etc., of potential show plants. I worked with African violets by day and packed our house contents by night.

Show time arrived and I managed sixty six entries,

won fifty seven blue ribbons and twenty one top awards. I was overjoyed when I sold all these entries, plus nine hundred in the sales room, leaving me with very few plants to move to their new home. The new plant room was ready the day I moved in, but my plants were still on the farm.

Settling down to my new set up has had it's up's and down's. Space I have, but of course not nearly as much as I had before. The new violet room has shelving up to the roof, fluorescent lights and an air conditioner. It will take time and patience. I am still coming to terms with the fact that my collection of three hundred and fifty special varieties has had to be scaled down very drastically, as I intend closing down my greenhouse on the farm. Going out once a week is insufficient to keep up all that needs to be done, in spite of daily help.

My life has to become more simple. Looking at my diary, I now find there is time for ME. My life had become too complicated with requests for lectures, phone calls and "things" I simply had to do. I have learned to say "No!"

Now in semi - retirement, a few of my decisions come to mind. I intend to keep growing for as long as I am able. As a result of the move into a retirement village, I see no reason to quit - only reduce my collection. I want to expand my growing ability of *Streptocarpus* indigenous to Southern Africa. I want to continue to help and teach young enthusiasts, to enjoy my violet friendships but free up more time for myself.

My love of African violets is still too strong to ever be without them. I will now only grow what I can comfortably cope with and enjoy growing to perfection.

Attention Affiliates

AVSA is pleased to add two new teachers. They are:
Linda Owens, 1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
and
Sharon Johnson, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr., Lino Lakes, MN 55014.

CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING A BUBBLE BOWL

by Cathy Cornibe • Santa Cruz, CA

After signing up to do my first Bubble Bowl, I read as many articles as I could find. Although the articles were helpful, they did not solve the problems that I encountered while I was practicing.

My biggest problems involved anchoring the materials down and moving them around as I made changes. After trying many unsuccessful methods — I discovered that “magnets” worked the best for me.

Magnets are so easy to use! Find a piece of rustproof metal to serve as a base. Use stick-em to anchor the base to the bottom of your Bubble Bowl. Glue magnets to the bottoms of all of your accessories, pin frogs, etc. with a clear silicone sealer. Allow the sealer to dry.

If this is your first Bubble Bowl, start practicing several weeks before the show. Rinse everything that you plan on using so that any dust or residue will not cloud your water. (I use distilled water.)

Test several greens to achieve the look you want and to learn which ones last the longest. Try various methods of securing blooms (pin frogs, wires, bloom tubes, shells, etc.) to find out which method works the best for you.

If you are using wire in your design, make sure that it will not rust and cloud the water. (Brass wire works well and bends easily.)

When you are ready to start working inside the Bubble Bowl, partially fill it with water and then lower your materials onto the base. The magnets let you move everything around as often as necessary.

Marbles, sand, gravel, or greens can be used to hide the base and magnets. If you want to camouflage the magnets even more, you can paint them to match to whatever they are glued. (Use paints that won't come off in water.)

After your practice Bubble Bowl is finished, stand back and look at it objectively and simplify it if it looks too cluttered. “Less is better.”

To find out how your Bubble Bowl will be judged, get a copy of *AVSA's Handbook For African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. Since Bubble Bowls are underwater flower arrangements, read the section on **Interpretive Flower Arrangements**.

The scale of points that the judges use to judge a Bubble Bowl is listed below.

AVSA'S SCALE OF POINTS FOR INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Design	40 points
Interpretation of schedule	15 points
Distinction and originality	15 points
Suitability of materials	10 points
Relationship of materials	10 points
Condition of materials	<u>10 points</u>
	100 points

Keep in mind that judges can deduct points for things like:

- mechanics that show loose or floating materials
- materials that touch the top of the Bubble Bowl
- no line
- cloudy water
- a dirty or scratched container
- translucent foliage or blossoms
- too many accessories
- an accessory that is too big
- the color of an accessory is too distracting
- the blossoms are not the highlight of the design

Enter a Bubble Bowl in your next show!

*Reprinted from the California Council News, joint
publication of the Northern and Southern CA AV Councils*



Showcase

'Lela Marie'

Best Standard

from Best AVSA Standard Collection

1997 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Phyllis King***

*Hybridized by: **I. Lineberg***

Standard

*Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco***





'Irish Sweeps'

From the AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Bruno Curcuruto***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

Curls and Frills

by Ruth Coulson
Australia

How many of your favorite African violet plants have ruffled foliage? Not many, I dare say.

As time goes on, in our quest to grow perfect show plants, we seem to concentrate more and more upon those which have the beautifully flat leaf form that grows so evenly and shapes so well. This means that we grow fewer and fewer African violets that have different foliage types.

Over the years there have been African violets with various types of foliage - longifolia, girl, spooned, bustle, clackamus, oak-leaf, holly, leatherneck, and so on. These have to a larger extent disappeared (in many cases I believe deservedly), but I suspect that we lose something from the riches of African violets when these variations go out of cultivation. Are the ruffled varieties also to disappear from our collections?

Perhaps our perspectives have changed. I think that twenty or thirty years ago, even ten years ago, hobby growers tended to judge a plant by the beauty of its flowers first and then by the overall impression of the plant. There was not so much showing done, and so the emphasis was not so much on making a good show plant. This gave growers greater freedom to chose plants on their immediate appeal rather than on preconceived ideas of a show variety. When new colors and forms of flowers, as well as new combinations, were being introduced as fast as the plants on which they appeared, they were embraced as quickly as they came on the market. They were not so easily downgraded because their foliage was not flat and smoothly produced.

Remember that the show rules say a plant must lose points if its petioles show (almost impossible to avoid with a violet with heavily ruffled foliage), but how many of us would really object to seeing the petioles if we had not learned this so well? I suppose the question is really "does the plant appeal to you?" rather than "Will this make a good show entry?" I am suggesting that you might like to grow a few of these vagrants with ruffles and curls in their leaves just for their own unique appeal.

Recently I have had occasion to look over some of the magazines from the 1960s and 1970s. In these they regularly had pages of photographs of praised new introductions. The difference between those and the new introductions of the 1990s seems to be that often over half

of them had ruffled foliage. I mean really ruffled, something like curly-leafed parsley, not merely lightly fluted. Most of these plants from the early years have moved into obscurity, but then so have their flatter fellows.

And yet there have been some ruffled leaf African violets that were landmarks in the history of our plants. **Firebird** was one such. It was an early variety with fairly small single fuchsia-red flowers that had a wide white ruffled edge. It was an unusual looking flower at the time and most early hobby growers would have had it at one time. Its foliage was very curly and unruly, and so was that of the later improved variety **Garnet Elf**. Somehow it did not matter so much then as it does now. There was also **Serenity**. This one had white flowers with a dark blue edge. The color combination was new, the plant looked very striking and it was eagerly awaited by growers. Its leaves were strongly ruffled but it was popular anyway and stayed in our collections for a good many years.

I seem to have grown a good many ruffled varieties over the years. I remember being extremely fond of **Blue Reverie**, which had shaded blue flowers. I can also remember **Alluring** which I purchased for its name but which turned out to have lavender flowers on extremely ruffled foliage with a cream center variegation. I know I thought it great at the time although it doesn't sound so good to me now. **Patricia Valerie** was one which grew in a difficult manner. Its ruffled girl leaves were very heavy and, on my plant at least, tended to grow upright. The trouble with this was that they quite hid the dark purple flowers.

Two favorites I had for a long time were **Amazing Grace** and **Marie Knoblock**. The former was another purchase by name appeal (who could resist?) and I loved its pale pink flowers and ruffled foliage. I also thought it grew fairly well, and was not too unruly despite the ruffled foliage. I had a show quality plant of it for some years. **Marie Knoblock** had fuchsia-colored flowers and lightly ruffled variegated foliage. I thought it a great show plant fifteen years ago, but when I tried growing it again a few years ago I found it did not flower heavily enough. Standards do change.

I still grow some ruffled types. **Ballet Fairy Queen** is

continued on page 31

FANTASTIC ★ IDEAS!! ★

by Pat Vinciguerra • Upland, CA

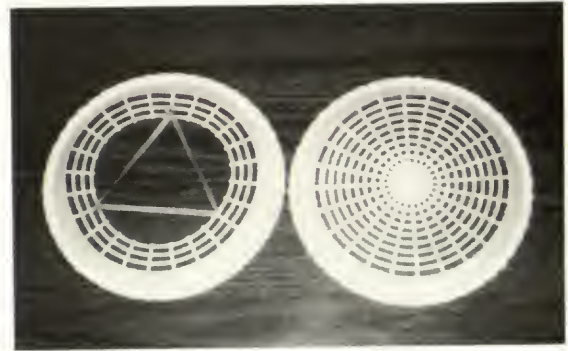
Estelle Orsini is a very clever lady, and Pomona Valley A.V.S. is proud to have her as a member. She has come up with two ideas we can all benefit from.

Estelle designed a "Leaf Support Ring", and fashioned it out of a plastic paper plate holder. The plastic plate has small rectangular holes, which allows air for circulation.

She cuts out the size she needs to fit her pots, by cutting on the circles with a wire cutter. Then makes one snip at three equal distances above the row she has cut out to hold a rubber band. And you have an instant "Leaf Support Ring"!

The plastic plates are 9 inches and can be cut to fit up to a 6 inch pot. They can be used right side up or upside down. They are inexpensive and easily found with other picnic supplies at the stores. They can be washed and re-used. For use with a heavier rubber band, the bands can be attached with a twist-tie.

A problem solver, Estelle came up with another handy



idea. She grows her plants with wicks and reservoirs, and had a problem trying to put the wick into the small hole in the reservoirs. Estelle quickly solved this problem by tying a small round plastic bead with a hole in the center to the end of the wick, which gives it weight and makes the job much easier. So, thanks, Estelle and keep the great ideas coming!



Last chance to get your award in for the 1998 Sacramento Convention. All awards received by February 15, 1998 will be listed in the Convention Souvenir Book. All awards received after March 1, 1998 will be held over for the 1999 Houston, TX Convention.

Please make your checks payable to:

AVSA CONVENTION FUND

Mail To: **Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**

AVSA Awards Chairman

1416 N. W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64105

(816) 229-2051 CST

(Curls and Frills continued from page 30)

one. Its flowers are white with a strongly ruffled crimson edge and its leaves have a similar amount of ruffle. It is a very pretty plant and does produce a lot of flower. **Reflection** is another. It has white flowers with a medium-blue edge and flowers rather well for me.

So, you see, some of these plants do have show potential and they certainly do have the potential to bring variety into your collection of African violets.

I am not sure what is the best way to go about growing the ruffled varieties. I have tried stronger light, less light, more and less fertilizing, smaller and larger pots, and so on.

The plants seem to be pretty much individuals and you will need to try different things in order to find what works best for a particular variety.

I have come to only two conclusions. One is that the light needs to be fairly close for some varieties (certainly **Amazing Grace**). If the plant is too far away from the light it will grow far too open to be really attractive. The other is that it seems to take longer to grow a good ruffled plant than it does a flat-leaved one.

*Reprinted from The African Violet,
publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.*

GROWING FOR THE GOLD

by Rita Hilton

Presentation from the AVSA Atlanta Convention

Because growing and showing African violets should be enjoyed, I don't want this hobby to be a burden. Therefore, I skip some of the steps that others take, according to the "how to do it" articles I've read and talks I've heard. Basically, I am an unstructured, relaxed grower. If a system is too complicated, it takes the pleasure out of the system. Growing should be fun.

The first African violets I bought were the largest plants on a show sales table. Then I began buying the small, starter plants from commercial growers. NOW, I order leaves and grow my own starter plants – and they are instantly acclimated to my growing conditions. Leaves are ordered from several commercial growers and different hybridizers because I don't want people to say, "Oh, that plant is one of Munk's (or some other well-known hybridizer) – It must be Rita Hilton's."

PROPAGATING

The first time I had some African violet leaves to put down, builder's sand was used, but they came up so slowly that I had almost lost interest in them by the time the small plantlets made their appearance. The rooting mix now used is equal parts perlite and vermiculite, 1/4 part soil, and a little horticultural charcoal, with the mixture dampened with Superthrive water. Each pot gets a wick, curved around in the pot to give the rooting mix extra moisture. This gives me excellent results – if 100 leaves are put down, I probably get baby plants from 99 of them. I plant by the moon signs, and have found that putting leaves down during the fruitful times works the best. I will repot larger plants during the semi-fruitful signs, but when leaves are to be put down, they will be held in water, waiting for the "moon to be right". Just before putting the leaves down in my rooting mix, the stems are re-cut. The baby plants usually are seen in six to eight weeks. I let them grow for about two to three months, until they are good-sized, and quite sturdy before taking them from the mother leaf

POTTING UP

When the plantlets are ready to separate from the mother leaf and be potted up, they go into my regular soil mix which is three quarts each of Pro-Mix and Volkmann

Soil, four quarts of perlite, one quart of vermiculite, and 1 1/2 cups of horticultural charcoal. A few hours before I am going to work with the plants, I put the amount of soil needed into a plastic bag, add Disyston systemic granules to the soil and dampen the soil with hot water. A wick goes through the drainage hole, then across the bottom of each 3" pot before the soil is added. Most people remove the baby leaves at this time, but I leave them on because I think it helps the plant with its photosynthesis to have those leaves for a while longer. After about 2-3 weeks when the plant has gotten established in its new home, the baby leaves will be removed. Each pot goes onto its own reservoir. At first, the plants just seem to sit there doing nothing, but they are busy making roots. Once a plant starts to grow, it really takes off.

In another three to four months, the plants are ready to move up to 4 1/2" pots. At this point, I use the "pot in a pot" system for my repotting, taking the size pot I am going to move the pot into, placing a wick through one of the drainage holes, add some soil, then use a clean pot the size the plant is currently growing in to make a mold, and filling in around the pot with the fresh soil. When the inner, smaller pot is removed, there is the perfect place to set the plant. If a plant gets too large for that size pot, it will be moved to a 5" pot, but seldom is a larger size than that used. Most plants in a pot larger than 3" diameter get set into Volkmann leaf trainer pots to encourage proper, shapely growth. When they need a larger training ring, I place one of the Elisa rings on top of the Volkmann leaf trainer pot.

GETTING READY FOR SHOW

If a plant seems to be forming a tight center, I cut a 4" circle out of cardboard, place it in the center of the plant for a few days, then take it off a few days, then repeat, being sure to let the plant get some light into its center every so often. If a plant is growing upward, an Elisa ring is placed on top of the plant to sort of weight it down and encourage a better growth habit. So, some plants may have rings under their foliage and on top of it, too.

My plants are disbudded, religiously. Often they are not allowed to bloom at all, until time to get them ready for a

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE

"Discover California"

APRIL, 1998

Horticulture Division – Amateur

SECTION I - COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

1a. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

2. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

3. Dark blue and purple
4. Light to medium blue
5. Light to medium pink
6. Dark pink, rose, and coral
7. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
8. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
9. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
10. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
11. Fantasy
12. All edged

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

13. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
14. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
15. White, cream, and blush
16. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
17. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

18. Purple and all shades of blue
19. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
20. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
21. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged
22. Fantasy
23. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
24. Pink, coral, red, fuchsia, variegated foliage
25. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
26. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
27. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS,

ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

28. Purple and all shades of blue

29. Pink and coral
30. Red and fuchsia
31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
32. All edged
33. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
34. Fantasy
35. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
36. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
37. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
38. Two-tone multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage
39. All edged, variegated foliage
40. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE

VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

41. Standard trailers
42. Miniature trailers
43. Semiminature trailers
44. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
45. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)
- 45a. Bustle foliage and wasp blossoms

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

46. Seedlings
47. Sports or mutants

SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS IN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

48. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
49. One African violet trailer in container

SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

50. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)
51. Tuberous-rooted
52. Scaly-rhizomed
53. Fibrous-rooted
54. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh cut African violet blossoms. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Backboards and draping of niches are permitted, as are accessories, unless restricted by the particular class.

55. **"Capitol Park"** - A beautiful setting for the California State Capitol building with its signature golden dome. There is a colorful array of camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, roses and bedding plants to enjoy year-round among the towering old trees. Let us enjoy this setting through your interpretive flower arrangement. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

56. **"Old Town"** - From Front Street in Old Sacramento you can view the famous Delta King paddle wheel boat, its last voyage over, moored on the Sacramento River, or you can view the Tower Bridge, a tall steel truss draw bridge over the river. Express your view in an interpretive flower arrangement. Designer's choice. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

57. **"Camellia City"** - Sacramento is also known as the Camellia Capital of the World for the city's more than one million camellia bushes. An interpretive flower arrangement using shades of pink African violet blossoms, and you may incorporate camellia foliage. To be shown in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

58. **"The Cathedral"** - The 217 foot tower of the Cathedral in Sacramento was built in 1889, its prominent architectural design comes from 19th century Paris and its stained glass is from Austria. Show us a devotional type interpretive flower arrangement. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

59. **"Fishing for Gold"** - There really is gold among the rocks in the American River. Try your hand at an underwater flower arrangement not to exceed 18" H x 12" W x 12" D to be displayed at eye level - no niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

60. **"Choo Choo"** - A small black and white interpretive flower arrangement, using any color African violet blossoms, depicting the famous California State Railroad Museum, the largest interpretive railroad museum in North America. A niche 8" H x 6" W x 4" D is provided. This class is limited to ten entries.

61. **"Cow Town"** - An endearing term used for small town Sacramento located in the early day cattle country. The term still exists today. Regardless of growth and conditions, Sacramento will always keep its small town atmosphere. A small homespun type interpretive flower arrangement to be shown in an 8" H x 6" W x 4" D niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

62. **"Balloon Adventures"** - A kinetic flower design. Portray, with a mobile, your exciting flight along with other flights, in a colorful hot air balloon, over Folsom Lake, the American River Canyon and some of the Gold Country in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

SECTION XI. - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, with the rootball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted, unless restricted by the particular class.

65. **"Jazz Jubilee"** - Sacramento is host to a big-time "Jazz Jubilee" each year. It is so large that parts of it are held in different locations. Select your instrument and/or music and come join the band.

include something musical in your interpretive plant arrangement. Niche is 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

64. **"River City"** - The American and Sacramento Rivers merge and "A River Runs Through It." Think of early Sacramento (known as River City), Victorian homes along the unpaved streets and all that is nostalgic. Create a Victorian plant arrangement to be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

65. **"Strike it Rich at Coloma"** - Site of Sutter's Mill and the Discovery of Gold in California. Gold fever didn't really strike until Sam Brannan, an enterprising merchant from Sutter's Fort, collected nuggets at the discovery site, stuffed them into a bottle and rode through the streets of San Francisco shouting: "Gold, Gold on the American River!" San Francisco was nearly deserted within a week as people headed for the gold mines. An interpretive plant arrangement using gold in some manner. Niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. This class is limited to six entries.

66. **"Stagecoach Trail"** - Take a step back in time to the stagecoach era. Sturdy horse-drawn carriages with wooden spoke wheels traveled the trails transporting thousands of miners and their gold. Depict your vision with a small interpretive plant arrangement not to exceed 10" in any direction. To be displayed on a rustic wooden shelf - no niche. This class is limited to eight entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

Miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in the container. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. Unlimited entries but only one entry per class by exhibitor.

67. **"The Rock"** - Alcatraz for one. A rocky island in the San Francisco Bay. A military prison 1859-1933 and a federal prison until 1963. There being no soil for the gardens on the island, all the soil was brought from another island then hand carried, put in place and planted by the prisoners. The island has long been known as "the Rock" and is now a tourist attraction. A natural garden. Use any type of natural rock container for your plantings. Not to exceed 20" in any direction.

68. **"Experience Yosemite Valley"** - Beautiful trees, lush green meadows, towering granite and oh yes, waterfalls! Depict a portion or all of this scene in a terrarium not to exceed 30" in any direction. Viewed from the front. Cover required.

69. **"Little Gems"** - A petite terrarium, any shape, using tiny African violets and other plants. To be viewed from the front. Your interpretation, not to exceed 12" in any direction. Cover required.

70. **"Wonders of Emerald Bay on Lake Tahoe"** - Miles of the world's most rugged shoreline and beautiful trees. Fannette Island, with it's famous Tea House, in the bay and Vikingsholm Castle, considered the finest example of Scandinavian architecture in the United States, on the shore. Depict any part of this scene in a *shallow* dish garden not to exceed 20" in any direction. To be viewed from the front.

71. **"Oriental Influence"** - No where in the Western World is the Oriental influence more apparent than in California. A dish garden, on a smaller scale, with an Oriental flavor. To be viewed from the front in a *shallow* container. Not to exceed 10" in any direction.

72. **"Discover California"** - A bottle garden depicting your favorite site in California, from the mountains to the sea. A planting in a transparent container with an opening too small for the hand to enter. Not to exceed 36" in any direction. Opening need not be covered.

Each exhibit in the design division shall be accompanied by a 3" x 5" card which gives the names of the African violet varieties used, and if known, the names of other plant materials used.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII - EDUCATION EXHIBIT

73. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XIV - SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. Collections

74. AVSA Collections

a. Standard Plants

b. Miniatures and Semiminiatures

75. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

76. Standard African Violets

77. Miniature African Violets

78. Semiminiature African Violets

79. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. Specimen African Violets

80. Standard, plain green foliage

81. Standard, variegated foliage

82. Miniatures, plain foliage

83. Miniatures, variegated foliage

84. Semiminiatures, plain foliage

85. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage

86. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

87. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads

88. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

SECTION XV - SPECIMEN PLANTS

89. Display tables

HORTICULTURE DIVISION Amateur - Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY and on Thursday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the posses-

sion of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative white. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 3 through 45.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 44, 45, 48 and 49 as those in classes 3 through 45.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 49 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 44.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow such as, "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2, must be AVSA registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 1a, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 2.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 25. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, April 23, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. MEMBERS ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, April 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, April 23, at 9:00 p.m. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class, but is limited to a total of six entries in classes 55-66 (Interpretive Flower and Interpretive Plant Arrangements) and a total of six entries in classes 67-72 (Container Gardens).

Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than January 1, 1998, nor later than March 25, 1998, to: Doris Weaver, 3940 North Alvarado, Stockton, CA 95204-2303. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons who wish to cancel confirmed reservations may write or call (209) 465-2214.

All entries must be the creations of the exhibitors, and must be placed by the exhibitors.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, April 23, until 10:00 p.m., and on Friday, April 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:30 a.m. April 24.

All design exhibits must be checked out and removed from the show room Saturday night, April 25. Instructions on check out will be provided at the convention.

3. Any type of plant material (except artificial), man-made materials, bases, accessories, backboards, and draping may be used in all interpretive flower and plant arrangements, unless restricted by the particular class. Accessories are permitted in all container garden classes; but, cut plant materials, underlayments, bases, backboards, and draping are prohibited. Mirror-sided terrariums are permitted. The American flag, national flags, regional flags (or facsimiles of any flag) and live or dead creatures may not be used in any exhibit.

4. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.

5. All exhibits must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle may also be included on the cards.

6. Exhibits will be merit judged by qualified AVSA Judges. Decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or the rules of this schedule.

7. Only blue ribbon exhibits will be eligible to receive special awards.

8. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant

Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, class 74, and Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 75, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara®/Rhapsodie® plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, miniature, semiminature and all types of trailers, either standard, miniature, or semiminature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of

points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068. Phone (816) 781-2160, after 6:00 p.m.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or
before March 19, 1998
will receive table assignments.

**All reservations received
after that date will have
unreserved seating at meal functions.**

Special meal requests must
be made to the AVSA Office
at time of registration.

Requests made directly to
the hotel will **not** be honored

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 51st St. Pete Beach Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 1997 St. Pete Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 18, 1998 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Saturday Luncheon at the 1998 Convention in Sacramento, California. This year's narrator will be Kent Stork. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 19, 1998, to:

**Jackie Jones
607 14th Ave. Box 34
Durant, IA 52747**

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

1998 Tours – Sacramento, CA

Tour Number #1

Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown

Monday, April 20, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Today we follow the trail of the original 49ers to the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park at Coloma. After being instructed in the art of gold panning, you can try your luck in the American River. This is where it all started and this major event caused the biggest gold stampede in California history. Fathers left their families and soldiers deserted their posts to grab the purportedly easy money to be found along the river's banks.

Carriage rides are not included in the tour package but are available for \$1.00 per person. Your leisurely ride will take you through the entire Marshall Gold Discovery Park and lasts about twenty (20) minutes. What better way to enjoy a California spring day?

At 12:30, we'll enjoy a cookout of roast beef, BBQ beans, peas and carrots in mushroom sauce, sourdough bread, butter and lemonade.

After lunch we are off to Hangtown. Hangtown got an early start, thanks to its proximity to the site of the original gold discovery. The original name of the camp was Dry Diggins, but after becoming the first Gold Rush community to use lynching as a form of justice, the camp became Hangtown. In 1954 the town's name was changed to Placerville. Many famous people got their start in Placerville. Railroad magnate Mark Hopkins sold vegetables; Phillip Armour, of meat packing fame, had a butcher shop here; John Studebaker, who later graduated to automobiles, made wheelbarrows here, and Collis P. Huntington, who later became a railroad tycoon, operated a store here.

Cost: \$30.00



Tour Number #2

South Lake Tahoe/ Casino

Monday, April 20, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Just a short distance from Sacramento and the Radisson Hotel, the terrain changes rapidly from foothills to forested mountain with glorious vistas of the magnificent Sierras. Your bus ride will take you over Echo Summit at the 7,832-foot elevation and descend to the 6,390-foot elevation of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The seventy-two (72) miles of shoreline provide access to the incredibly clear blue lake. In all directions the vistas are breathtaking. (Though it just might be the elevation that has you enthralled.)

At South Lake Tahoe we start at Harvey's Casino where you will receive \$5.00 in script to start your gambling spree.

Lunch is on your own and the price will be easy on the pocketbook. All the casinos offer great meals for next to nothing (however they would rather you gamble and forgo eating).

Note: Even if you don't gamble, this trip is worth taking ... shop if you like or just sit in the sun and enjoy the view. A warm wrap is suggested as it might turn cool. April still brings snow and cool, cool nights.

Cost: \$28.00



Tour Number #3

Sacramento City Tour/ Old Town

April 21, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This morning we take a bus ride through Sacramento with its wide streets and many trees ... a must on



anyone's list. You will enjoy views of the Capital Building, Governors Mansion, Stanford Mansion and Sutter's Fort.

Old Sacramento, a registered national landmark and state historic park, boasts the largest concentration of historic buildings in California. It is perched on the banks of the Sacramento River, gateway to the Pacific Ocean.

The districts one hundred (100) restored building's house unique shops, award-winning restaurants and a number of museums. A public market was opened in 1996 and houses an old-fashioned Italian delicatessen, a spice shop, a dairy and egg vendor and many, many others.

The California State Railroad Museum is the showpiece of Old Town with its twenty-one (21) meticulously restored locomotives and cars. It is open to the public with an entrance fee of \$6.00 (not included in the tour package).

Note: There is a lot to do here for anyone. I'm sure you will not have enough time to spend here on this tour.

Cost \$15.00

Tour Number #4

California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the "California Highway Patrol Academy" officers are trained and retrained. It's not easy in California to become a highway patrol officer. Besides classroom studies and martial arts, a college degree plus twenty-seven weeks (27) of intensive training are required to become a California Highway Patrol Officer. They also learn to handle one of the fastest pursuit cars made for police work.

Demonstrations will be provided for our group. If you want a private demo, exceed the posted speed limit for a few miles and you will personally meet one of the most courteous ticket givers. (Note: not included in the tour package ... you are on your own here.)

Lunch will be provided by the academy.

After lunch, it's off to the Governor's Mansion. The Mansion housed the California Governor from 1903 to 1967, thirteen in all. In 1968 Ronald Reagan became Governor and refused to live in such a drafty old house. Reagan asked for and got donations to build a more modern structure. Unfortunately his term expired before it was completed. The next Governor was Jerry Brown who refused to live in such a large home. The mansion was sold and now no one lives in either of the Governors Mansions. It could only happen in California.

Cost: \$38.00



Tour Number #5

Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Sacramento has long been known as the "River City" because of the 1,000 navigable miles of waterways that flow through the area. Two major rivers, the Sacramento and the American, converge here making the city a vital inland port. Oceangoing vessels use these waterways as their gateway to the Pacific Ocean.

The "Spirit of Sacramento" was built in 1942, and spent most of her career on the Sacramento River. First as a "snag" removal vessel, working the river to clear debris, then owned by John Wayne and featured in his movie "Blood Alley". After stardom she returned to the Sacramento River as a dinner cruise boat.

A buffet dinner on the river is best enjoyed as evening turns to night.



The lights of the city twinkle like little stars. You soon see why the name "River City" is so appropriate. Our cruise departs at 7:15 p.m. and returns at 10:15 p.m. The buffet dinner comes highly recommended, as does the spectacular scenery. This time of year is very mild, but a light jacket or sweater would be appropriate.

Relive the romance aboard an historic paddlewheel as we dine amid Victorian elegance and enjoy cruising the Sacramento River. Sacramento from the water is a sight you won't soon forget.

Cost: \$50.00

Tour Number #6

Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

8:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our trip today takes us westward on Interstate 80. They say it begins at the Golden Gate and ends in New York, or is it the other way around?

The Davis Arboretum of the University of California was established in 1936 and occupies 125 acres on the banks of ancient Putah Creek. The Arboretum plantings include hundreds of species of trees and woody plants adapted to the local Mediterranean climate of California, including a large collection of California native plants. Our guide will walk us through much of California's past and present history as told by the plants and trees.

The Botanical Conservatory was founded in 1959 and serves the university community and beyond as an educational facility. It houses over 2500 plant species in more than 150 families, including examples from most of the world's climactic regions. (I have been told that the greenhouse is stocking up on a lot of gesneriads just for our visit.)

Lunch on your own in the huge Factory Outlet complex in Vacaville located right on Interstate 80.

After lunch, and some shopping, it's on to the Jelly Belly factory. Not until Ronald Reagan became President did Jelly Belly come into its own. President Reagan only ate Jelly Bellies! You will tour this now famous factory and sample them all, some 50 or more flavors. (If I were you, I'd leave the green ones alone, or is it the greenish yellow with a brown spot?)

Cost: \$22.00

Tour Number #7

Empire Gold Mine/ Nevada City

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

8:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley, is the site of the oldest, richest, gold mine in California. From the time in 1850 when George Roberts discovered gold in a quartz outcropping, which became the ophir vein, until the mine's closure in 1956, an estimated 5,800,000 ounces of gold were extracted from 367 miles of underground passages.

As word spread throughout the world, that hard rock gold had been found in California, miners from the tin and copper mines of Cornwall, England flocked to the area to share their wealth of experience and expertise in hard rock mining techniques. The Cornish provided the bulk of the labor force from the late 1870's until 1956. During that time the Empire Mine thrived under two separate leaderships.

A knowledgeable guide will lead you through the history of the mines, and you may actually enter one shaft and can take pictures seated on one of the cars that took the miners down the incline to a depth of 11,007 feet.

Don't miss the tour of the gorgeous mansion and formal gardens on the mine grounds... a must see.

Our next stop is Nevada City (Queen City of the Northern Mines). Nevada City is great for its Victorian-style storefronts, great shopping, good art galleries and many excellent restaurants, all in a small area with easy



walking. Many "lunch on your own sites". The entire downtown district is a national historic landmark. This town of about 2,800 residents is among the most interesting of those towns born in the California Gold Rush. It has mostly easy, level or gentle slopping walking and the elevation is not problematic.

Cost: \$32.00

Tour Number #8

Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown

Thursday, April 22, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This tour repeats tour number one (1).

Tour Number #9

Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting

Thursday, April 23, 1998

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our first stop will be the Petrified Forest. Here you step back in time, over 3 million years, to walk the trail of the petrified redwood giants. The Petrified Forest is seven miles southwest of Mount Saint Helens, which erupted in a volcanic blast millions of years ago to create the Petrified Forest. Mount Saint Helens has been quiet for many years; however, if it erupts while you are visiting the forest, your tour price will be cheerfully refunded.

Our next stop will be the "Home of Old Faithful Geyser of California", one of three in the United States that erupts at regular intervals.

Then it's on to Calistoga, famous for its mud and mineral baths. Calistoga is located at the north end of the Napa Valley. Here you will find many unique shops and, of course, lunch on your own in this historic little town.

Some say the grapes grown in the Napa Valley are superior to those grown in France. One thing for sure, the scenery is second to none.

Our next port of call is the Sterling Winery with its tiny aerial tram, your only entrance into this beautiful winery. Visit the visitor center, and of course a tour of the winery is included.

Then it's on to St. Supery Winery, if we can still stand, (a little play on words) for some more wine tasting; a vineyard exhibit display demonstrating different trellising and pruning methods; and a 1882 Queen Anne-style home that has been restored to its pre-Prohibition, wine-boom period and opened for tours.

Cost: \$35.00



Something New!!

Auction At Saturday Luncheon

We're going to spice up the Saturday luncheon with an auction of nice violet-related craft items and growing products, as well as some highly desirable plants donated by hybridizers and commercials. In order to make this work, we need the help of commercial and individual members, affiliates and hybridizers. Money raised from the auction will be used to offset convention expenses, thus making the convention experience more affordable and more enjoyable.

So far we have two ceramic self-watering pots donated by the Tinaris, a lovely porcelain necklace featuring violets strung with rose agate beads donated by Convention Director Ann Miller and another violet-painted-on-china necklace donated by the Missouri Valley African Violet Council.

Won't you join us with this endeavor? If I receive notice of your intention to donate no later than March 15 you will receive special notice in the convention souvenir booklet.

All donations to the Saturday luncheon auction can be sent to Barb Elkin if the individual wants to pre-send it. Pat Richards will still need to be notified of the donation and given a description of the donated item.

Pat Richards, 15105 5. Seminole Drive, Olathe, KS 66062-3004 (913) 829-4258, fax (913) 829-48581 email Patter257@aol.com

52nd Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, April 19, 1998 to Sunday, April 26, 1998

"Discover California"

SUNDAY, April 19, 1998

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AVSA Convention Pre-Con
Registration
Information

MONDAY, April 20, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration
Information
Tour # 1 - Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown
Tour # 2 - South Lake Tahoe
Registration
Information
President's Reception for the Board of Directors
Registration

TUESDAY, April 21, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to Complete
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 4:50

6:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Registration
Executive Committee Meeting and Salary Committee Meeting
Tour # 3 - Sacramento City Tour and Old Town
Tour # 4 - California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion
Information
Committee Meetings:
Affiliate, Advertising, Awards, Booster Fund, Commercial Activities, Commercial Sales and Exhibits, Convention, Shows and Judges, Membership & Promotion, Publications
Registration
Information
Vice President's Meetings with Committee Chairmen:
1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President
Tour # 5 - River Boat Dinner Cruise

WEDNESDAY, April 22, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration
Judging School
New Director's Orientation
Tour # 6 - Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory
Tour # 7 - Empire Gold Mine/Nevada City
Information
Board of Directors Opening Meeting
Membership and Promotion Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
Board of Directors Luncheon
Registration
Information
Nominating Committee Meeting
AVSA Information and Sales
Affiliate's Meeting
Future Conventions Meeting
Classification and Entries for **convention workers ONLY**

THURSDAY, April 23, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Teachers Breakfast
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Tour # 8 - Coloma/Gold Panning/Hangtown
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.	Tour #9 - Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Classifications and Entries
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
	Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Entries for Those on Tours Only
6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.	1997 St. Petersburg Beach Slides
7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Social Break
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum
11:00 p.m.	Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 24, 1998

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs <i>for replacement of blossoms only.</i>
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Commercial Members Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Judges and Clerks Instructions
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation #1 - "The Discovery" Plant Diagnosis by Dr. Charles Cole
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation #2 - "Designing For Gold"
	Plant and Flower Arrangements from Beginning to the End by Heather Morgan
10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table , Booster Fund Table
	Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to Completion	Judging of Show
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #3 - "Food - Not Just for Thought" by Dave Neal
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Presentation #4 - "Trailing to Sacramento" - Trailers by Bev Promersberger
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #5 - "Discovering Gold" - Producing Show Plants, General Care & Culture of African Violets by Winston Goretsky
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Presentation #6 - "Discovering Streptocarpus"
	One of the other Gesneriads by Dr. Ralph Robinson
4:30 p.m. to Complete	Photography - Library and AVM
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (cash bar)
	The Sacramento Banjo Players
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table
	Booster Fund Table, Ways & Means Table
7:00 p.m. to Complete	Opening Dinner - "What's Your Line" Show Awards will be presented
	Entertainment "The Vintage Dancers"
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Show opens to AVSA Convention Registrants Only

SATURDAY, April 25, 1998

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Showroom open to photographers only
------------------------	-------------------------------------

7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. to Completion

9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

10:15 p.m.

12:00 m/n

Judges' Breakfast and Workshop

Registration

Information

Show Room Open

Commercial Sales Open

AVSA Information and Sales

Hospitality Room Open

Presentation #7 - "Discovering the Cure" Pests and Diseases by Dr. Charles Cole

Presentation #8 - "Tiny Treasures" - All about Miniatures by Winston Goretsky

Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials

for transportation into controlled countries and states

Membership and Promotions Table, Building Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table

Ways and Means Table, Houston Promotional Table

Violets "On Line" Meeting

New Introduction Luncheon Slides and Auction

Registration

AVSA Information & Sales

Hospitality Room Open

Annual Membership Meeting, Open Forum and Raffles

President's Reception & Hospitality Hour (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)

Eureka" Installation Banquet, Awards to be presented: Tinari Greenhouse's Membership

Awards, Publications Awards, Honorary Society Awards,

Entertainment - "Quitus High Andes Folk Music"

Commercial Display Tables Checkout

Commercial Sales Breakdown

Entry Checkout Begins

Show Room Closes

SUNDAY, April 26, 1998

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

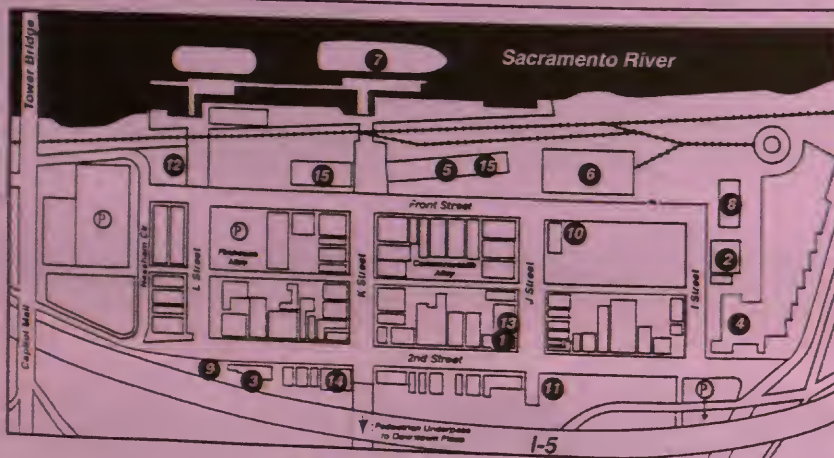
Commercial Sales Breakdown

Local Storage Clean-up

Commercial Storage Clean-up

Show Room Clean-up

Board of Directors Meeting



- OLD SACRAMENTO -

1. B.F. Hastings Building and Wells Fargo Bank Museum
2. The Big Four Building and Huntington-Hopkins Hardware Store
3. California Military Museum
4. California State Railroad Museum
5. Central Pacific Freight Depot and Excursion Steam Train
6. Central Pacific Passenger Station
7. Delta King Riverboat Hotel
8. Discovery Museum

9. Theodore Judah Monument
10. Old Eagle Theater
11. Pony Express Monument
12. Schoolhouse Museum
13. Underground Railroad
14. Visitor Center
15. Public Market

(P) = Parking

AVSA 1998 SACRAMENTO CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. "The Discovery" Plant Diagnosis
Friday, April 24, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
By Dr. Charles Cole
Research Entomologist from Texas A & M University
Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets" will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African Violet collections.

2. "Designing For Gold" Planting and Flower Arrangements From Beginning to End
Friday, April 24, 1998 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
By Heather Morgan of San Mateo, CA
Heather will help us get back to the basis of African violet plant and flower designs. Heather has been creating award-winning designs for many years, and has won many award, including Best in Show, in both local and state-wide shows. One of her specialties is award-winning kinetic designs, as well as terrariums, flower and plant arrangements. Heather is a member of the San Mateo County African Violet Society, Life Member AVS and a member of the Northern California Council of African Violet Societies.

3. "Food ... Not Just For Thought" Plant Nutrition
Friday, April 25, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
By Dave Neal, owner of Dyna-Gro Fertilizer and other Plant-care products of San Pablo California
"Plants need good nutrition the same as growing children. Learning to recognize early warning signals of malnutrition will help you ward off diseases and will insure healthy plants. Dave will teach us what we should feed hungry plants.

4. "Trailing to Sacramento" Trailers
Friday, April 24, 1998 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
By Bev Promersberger of Monument, CO
Bev has mastered the art of growing trailers and is one of our most popular speakers. Not only will Bev share with us her methods of growing and grooming trailers but her presentation will also include some "hands-on" experience. Bev is an AVSA Senior Judge, a Teacher and currently serves as an AVSA Director. She put together the slide program on Trailers for the AVSA library. Bev will share secrets for successfully growing and showing African Violet Trailers.

5. "Discovering Gold" Producing Show Plants
General Care and Culture of African Violets
Friday, April 24, 1998 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
By Winston J. Goretsky of Calgary, Alberta Canada
Winston Goretsky is a top-notch grower of African Violets. His success does not just happen but is a direct result of his dedication to the overall general care and culture of his plants. A top-

award winner in every show he enters, whether horticulture or designs, Winston will show us how it can be possible for YOU to win Best in show. Winston is in constant demand as a speaker and he will give us some down-to-earth advice and tips on developing show plants. An AVSA Judge, and a photographer, Winston currently serves as Second Vice President of AVS of Canada.

6. "Discovering Streptocarpus" One of the 'other' Gesneriads
Friday, April 24, 1998 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
By Dr. Ralph Robinson from Naples NY

Formerly Dr. Robinson was a Professor of Business and Economics at SUNY at Buffalo NY and Daemen College, now is the owner and operator of The Violet Barn, popularly known as "Rob's Mini-O-Lets". Although perhaps best known for the wonderful miniatures he has hybridized and marketed, Ralph also produced many of the most outstanding Streptocarpus available today.

7. "Discovering the Cure" Pests and Diseases
Saturday, April 25, 1998 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
By Dr. Charles Cole Research Entomologist from Texas A & M University

Dr. Cole, author of many articles on the subject of pests and diseases, including his own book, Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets will give us practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which invade our African violet collections.

8. "Tiny Treasures" All About Miniatures
Saturday, April 24, 1998 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
By Winston J. Goretsky of Calgary, Alberta Canada

Winston Goretsky is a top-notch grower of African violets. His success does not just happen but is a direct result of his dedication to the overall general care and culture of his plants. A top-award winner in every show he enters, whether horticulture or design. Winston will show us how it can be possible for YOU to win Best in Show. Winston is in constant demand as a speaker and he will give us some down-to-earth advice and tips on developing show plants. An AVSA Judge, and a photographer, Winston currently serves as Second Vice President of AVS of Canada.



African Violet Society of America, Inc.

52nd Annual Convention & Show

April 19-26, 1998 - Radisson Hotel - Sacramento, California

Call for 1998 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 25, 1998, at 2:30 p.m., at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 1998 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 22, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California and Sunday, April 26, 1998, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 1998 Open Forum Meeting

The 12th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 25, 1998 at Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's test and for AVSA judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student (renewal) _____ Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Peg Phythyon, 852 Haggerty Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092. The test will be based on latest edition of the Handbook, the 1997 printing. This is equivalent to the 1994 printing plus all updates through January 1997. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 15, 1998.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. **These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1998.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **DO NOT** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 10, 1998 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will receive notification of your assignment.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council _____

Experience: _____ Minis/Semiminis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Design _____ Commercial _____

Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVS Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. **These applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1998.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Apt. # _____

_____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member _____ State _____ Zip _____

Design Division Reservations

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Apt. # _____

Phone Number _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to enter the following interpretive design classes: (Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Alternate Choices: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I would like to enter Container Gardens in the following classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked January 1, 1998 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than March 21, 1998**, to: Doris Weaver, 3940 North Alvarado, Stockton, CA 95204-2303.

AVSA's 52nd Annual Convention & Show
"Discover California"
 April 19-26, 1998 – Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California

AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Sacramento, California Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office – 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by **March 19, 1998**. There will be a **\$5.00 paper work fee charged for cancellations**. Registrations received after March 19, 1998 will be \$65.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box	Apt. #		City/State	Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention _____

(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member | (E) Judge | (H) Commercial Member | (K) Board Member |
| (B) Life member | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner | (M) Non-Member (guest) |
| (D) Associate Member | | | |

This is my (#) _____ convention Name to go on Badge _____
 (Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

____ Yes ____ No **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**
(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____
Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
--------------	---------	------------	-------------------

TRAVEL BY: Personal Car _____ Rental Car _____ Other _____ RV _____	ACCOMMODATIONS: Radisson Hotel _____ Other _____
---	--

Plane _____ Airline _____ _____ If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____ _____ If by plane, departure day/date and time _____	
--	--

After March 19, 1998, each registration will be \$65.00 or \$68.00 respectively.

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$40.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after March 19, 1998)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$43.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after March 19, 1998)	\$68.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$35.00	\$ _____
International Member (after March 19, 1998)	\$60.00	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION		\$ _____

Meals:

____ 1. Wed.,	Board of Director's Luncheon (Turkey Croissant)	\$14.50	\$ _____
____ 2. Thurs.,	Teacher's Breakfast (Plaza Crepes)	\$12.50	\$ _____
____ 3. Fri.,	Commercial Breakfast (Eggs Benedict)	\$13.50	\$ _____
____ 4. Fri.,	Opening Dinner (Stuffed Cornish Hens)	\$29.50	\$ _____
____ 5. Sat.,	Judges Breakfast (Apple Crepes)	\$13.75	\$ _____
____ 6. Sat.,	Luncheon (Oriental Chicken Salad)	\$16.50	\$ _____
____ 7. Sat.,	Installation Banquet (Medallions of Beef and Poached Salmon)	\$32.50	\$ _____
TOTAL MEALS			\$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, BEFORE March 19, 1998. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 19, 1998 WILL RECEIVE TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. ALL RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL HAVE UNRESERVED SEATING AT MEAL FUNCTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.

TOURS: (1, 4, 5 and 8, lunch or dinner is included in the cost of these tours)

___ 1. Mon., April 20	Coloma/Panning/Hangtown	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Mon., April 20	South Lake Tahoe/Casino Gambling	\$28.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Tues., April 21	Sacramento City Tour/Old Town	\$15.00	\$ _____
___ 4. Tues., April 21	California Highway Patrol/Governor's Mansion	\$38.00	\$ _____
___ 5. Tues., April 21	Riverboat Dinner Cruise	\$50.00	\$ _____
___ 6. Wed., April 22	Davis Arboretum/Outlet Stores/Jelly Bean Factory	\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Wed., April 22	Empire Gold Mine/Nevada City	\$32.00	\$ _____
___ 8. Thurs., April 23	Coloma/Panning/Hangtown	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 9. Thurs., April 23	Napa Valley/Calistoga Geysers/Petrified Forest/Wine Tasting	\$35.00	\$ _____

TOTAL TOURS \$ _____

We reserve the right of cancellation if minimum number is not met.

Thursday, April 23, 1998

- ___ 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. "Social Hour and Slides of 51st St. Pete Beach Convention", by Nancy Hayes
- ___ 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum", Moderator: Mary Boland,
Panelists: Anne Tinari and Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. Charles Cole

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, April 24, 1998

- ___ 1. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. "The Discovery", by Dr. Charles Cole
- ___ 2. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. "Designing for Gold", by Heather Morgan
- ___ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Food ... Not Just For Thought", by Dave Neal
- ___ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Trailing to Sacramento", by Bev Promersberger
- ___ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Discovering Gold", by Winston Goretsky
- ___ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Discovering Streptocarpus", by Dr. Ralph Robinson

Saturday, April 25, 1998

- ___ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Discovering the Cure", by Dr. Charles Cole
- ___ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Tiny Treasures", by Winston Goretsky

PAYMENT:

Total Registration \$ _____

Total Meals \$ _____

Total Tours \$ _____

TOTAL
PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please double check to insure all numbers are listed correctly.
Check one:

☐ Visa # _____

Expires _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expires _____

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

NOTE: Cancellations must be received
by March 19, 1998 to be entitled to a refund.
There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:
Convention Registration

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

(409) 839-4725

Signature (If using card)

AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Growers Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, April 23, 1996 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Mary A. Boland

Panelists Dr. Jeff Smith, Anne Tinari
and Dr. Charles Cole

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African Violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African Violets in designs don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

Hotel Reservation

1998 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:
Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, CA 95815

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number (_____) _____
Sharing Room with _____

Make check or money order payable to **Radisson Hotel Sacramento**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

_____ One Night's Deposit Enclosed _____ MasterCard
_____ American Express _____ Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Radisson Hotel Sacramento**.
Phone number: 1-800-333-3333; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. EST or 1-916-922-2020; Fax: 1-916-649-9463.

Room Rate: \$89.00 Single, Double
 \$99.00 Triple
 \$109.00 Quadruple
 \$135.00 Junior Suite
 12% City & Hotel Tax

Accommodations requested: _____ number of persons in room

_____ Single Arrival Date _____
(check in 4:00 pm)

_____ Double (two persons)
_____ Triple (three persons) Departure Date _____
(check out by noon)

_____ Quad (four persons)
_____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
Room rates subject to **City & Hotel Tax**.
Reservations **must** be received by: **March 19, 1998** The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE SACRAMENTO AIRPORT

To Radisson Hotel by Super Shuttle

Upon exiting the airport terminal, follow the signage to the Ground Transportation Booth located on the first sidewalk near the airport restaurant. Travelers to the hotel may purchase tickets there at the rate of \$9.00 one way or \$17.00 round trip. This is a special rate for Radisson hotel guests and they must identify themselves as staying at the Radisson Hotel. Once a ticket is purchased there is a maximum wait of 15 minutes for the shuttle to depart. The Ground Transportation Booth will remain open until 11:30 p.m. If you arrive after that time call 1-800-258-3826 for a reservation.

Hotel to Airport by Super Shuttle

Hotel guests can wait by the hotel bell stand since reservations are not necessary. Vans will arrive at the Radisson every half hour 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and every hour 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For transportation after 6:00 p.m. guests shall call the 800 number for reservations 4 hours before departure.

DIRECTIONS TO THE RADISSON HOTEL SACRAMENTO

From Interstate 5 (From Stockton, Redding or Metro Airport)

Take Interstate 5 into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Interstate 80 (Eastbound - from San Francisco)

Take Interstate 80 East into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane; Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Interstate 80 (Westbound - from Reno)

Take Interstate 80 West into Sacramento; Once you pass the Madison Avenue Exit, I-80 will split. Keep to the right of the freeway and take The Capital City Freeway toward Downtown Sacramento; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn Right onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane; Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Highway 50 (Westbound - from South Lake Tahoe)

Take Highway 50 West into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

From Highway 99 (Northbound - from Stockton)

Take Highway 99 North into Sacramento; Take the Capital City Freeway (Business 80) East; Exit at Exposition Boulevard (CAL EXPO); Turn left onto Exposition Boulevard; Turn left onto Leisure Lane, Guest Parking and Registration are located at the 2nd entrance.

HOSTS - HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Sacramento Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by March 19, 1998 to: **Mrs. Vivian Ragan, 2026 Beach Street, Concord, CA 94519. Phone (916) 878-0505.**

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

\$89.00 - Single/Double \$99.00 - Triple
\$109 - Quad \$135 - Junior Suite
Plus 12% Tax
Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No Preference _____
Age: Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and Over _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

All requests must be made by March 1, 1998, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 19, 1998.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS

R.V. space is available at **Cal Expo** for \$20/night with full hook-up. The park is located 3/4 mile from the Radisson Hotel. Call them at (916) 263-3187 for reservations.

The Radisson Hotel will allow 6 rigs to park at the hotel and stay in the R.V. The cost, without hookup's is \$20/night. You will register at the hotel and have hotel security. Parking the R.V. at the hotel and renting a room, the R.V. parks for free.

ATTENTION!

Airline information is **NOT** included this year since we have no airline contracts. Most convention attendees are able to find better rates with other airline promotions and we have had little, or no participation in the drawing for free tickets.

show. I disbud every time I refill the reservoirs, then stop seven weeks before show, on all standards, regardless of whether the blooms are single, semi-double or double. Blooms seem to come on faster for a fall show because the weather is hotter while the blooms come on slower for a spring show.

Foliar feeding is not for me because once you start doing it, you have to keep it up, or have smaller leaves that tell exactly when the plants quit getting their extra feedings. My fertilizers are 23-19-17, 20-20-20 and 12-36-14, in the reservoirs. I top water with 5-50-17 about ten, eight and six weeks before a show to encourage extra blooming. Sometime green-leafed plants will get fish emulsion sticks if the foliage seems to need an extra bit of "greening up."

I try never to repot less than ten weeks before a show because that is when the plants are beginning to form the flower buds. You will want to produce the best bloom for the show. However, if a plant must have a larger pot to be entered in the show, I will repot three or four weeks before the show – after the buds have formed. At the final repotting before a show, I will remove a leaf – usually one that seems to be growing just a little "out of place" – and put it down in my rooting mix so there is a new generation of that plant in my collection if it is one that I particularly want to continue growing.

OTHER DETAILS

Lighting: I use a cool white tube and a GroLux Wide Spectrum tube in each fixture. There is a light which has been out for a couple of years called "cool white workshop light." These tubes are stronger and cheaper, but do not last as long. Dark end circles seem to appear much faster. The lights are on twelve hours a day, year around. The time is seldom changed, if ever. It is important to find the right spot under the lights for each of your plants. Some need the middle of the tubes where the light is stronger and others prefer the ends of the tubes. The plants with heavy variegation do best at the center of the tubes for me. I try to use the guidelines of replacing tubes after about a year.

Don't change both tubes in a fixture at once, though. That gives the plants too much extra light all at once. A good way to keep up with the age of tubes is to write on the tube the date replaced.

Wicking: I use either Volkmann wicking on my miniature and semiminature African violets, or size 36 cord from a building supply house. For the standard sized plants, 3.5 polypropylene macrame cord is used. All plants are on individual reservoirs.

Temperature: My house thermostat is set at 80 to 82 degrees during the summer, during the day when I am at work, but changed to 78 degrees when I come home. If you can keep them cooler in summer they probably would do better, but it isn't practical for me to do so. In the winter, the heat thermostat is set lower to about 72 degrees. A ceiling fan is on constantly for air circulation, no matter what the temperature.

Mildew: When this has been a problem, I've sprayed with a systemic fungicide that is supposed to be safe for ornamental plants. It contains Bayleton fungicide. You must be careful with this product and not use it more often than once a month or you will have distorted growth. I have used water, with a little Physan mixed in, on my finger to remove powdery mildew when there was only a patch or two. When a mildew problem has occurred, it seems worse on the leaves that have been put down for propagation.

Other pots: I've tried using the flat bulb pans for growing my African violets, but didn't care for them because if the foliage droops on the plant, it touches the table. I've also tried Texas potting and Oyama pots but found that I got no better results with those methods than the one I now use.

All I've done is give you some idea of "The Hilton Way" of growing. What works for me may not be what will work for you. You might have to do some experimenting, but I certainly wish you luck with all of your propagating, potting up, and growing African violets for showing. Just remember that however the ball bounces when the judges are through, it is just a hobby and oh, what a good time you had just getting your plants ready to show.

THANKS

To the AVSA Booster Fund and our Ohio Affiliates for a new fax machine in the AVSA Beaumont office. It was much needed and is much appreciated.

*Ann Miller
Convention Director*

Let's Go Underground

by Rena Douglas
Australia

Few people give much thought to ROOTS - the unseen anchors and water suppliers of plants, but they are just as essential to the plant's health and growth as the more showy parts growing above ground.

While the plant's stem and leaves are busy growing up toward the light, its roots grow downward, pulled by gravity. As they do so they fulfill their two main functions which are to anchor the plant firmly and absorb water and minerals from the soil. These are then drawn up through the plant to the leaves to be used in photosynthesis, the process which was discussed last month. In spring each year a plant's roots grow longer, the growth taking place only at the root tip, where the cells multiply very rapidly.

The growing root is a clever little thing, which has several specialized structures designed to produce optimal growth:

1. The ROOT CAP - has several layers of cells designed to protect the fragile root tip as it pushes its way down through the soil. These cells are continually being replaced as they wear out, and they also act as gravity sensors.

2. The GROWING POINT - the tip area immediately behind the root cap where cells divide very quickly.

3. The ZONE OF ELONGATION - This is made up of soft new cells whose VACUOLES (a large fluid-filled space inside each cell) expand and grow longer, pushing the root tip further down into the soil.

4. The PILIFEROUS LAYER - or hairy layer. The outer layer of cells produces millions of tiny tube-like growths - the root hairs. These root hairs anchor the plant more

firmly into the soil and help the plant take in minerals and water at a greatly increased rate. Plant root hairs can double the surface area of the roots which means that more water is absorbed and therefore more rapid growth is achieved.

XYLEM AND PHLOEM vessels - remember the "up" and "down" of the plant's plumbing system? These are found in the center of the root. Moisture and dissolved minerals move by a process called osmosis from the root hairs to the xylem for transport to the leaves. Roots grow thicker and tougher with age as they require more strength to support larger and heavier superstructures - this is especially true for trees.

For all this activity plants need ample soil moisture and mineral salts, but OXYGEN is also essential, and potting mix - especially for African violets - must be open and free-draining as well as able to retain an adequate amount of water. In a water-logged plant the oxygen is cut off; the roots rot and die and the plant cannot be supplied with water and therefore the plant dies too.

In dried out soil the roots wither and die and can no longer supply the rest of the plant which also dies. Therefore for excellent health in plants, it is vital to provide excellent conditions around its roots! However, along with all this good advice (which I could do with following myself) it is as well to remember that a plant can have too much of a good thing, and fertilizer salts can build up in the soil - often seen as an orange colored crust around the rim and drain holes of the pot - leading to an imbalance in nutrients and an unhealthy plant. Fortunately this can be remedied by leaching out with plain water.

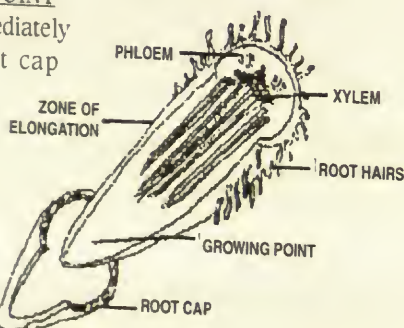
ROOT PROBLEMS

Root problems usually show as wilting leaves and stems and a generally unhappy looking plant. There are four possible causes:

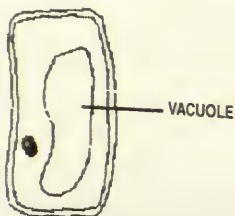
1. Over or under watering.
2. Over or sometimes under feeding.
3. Pests.
4. Diseases.

The solutions to problems 1. and 2. are relatively straightforward and obvious, however pests and diseases may prove more difficult to resolve.

ROOT CROSS SECTION



ENLARGED CELL



3. The main pests to attack roots are soil mealy bugs and nematodes.

Soil mealy bug, or Pritchard mealy bugs, look quite like sesame seeds in size shape and color. They are sometimes seen in the reservoirs, and sometimes show as "webbiness" around the outside of the soil ball. If the soil is broken away from the roots they may be seen crawling fairly slowly around the roots, and sometimes they may be seen at the base of the stem. They eat and destroy the fine hair roots of the plant. The best treatment is often simply to discard the plant and check all other plants very carefully for signs of mealy bugs, however if the plant is special, a leaf can be put down or the center of the plant with four leaves and 3cms of stem may be potted up.

Drenching at weekly intervals for six weeks with a Malathion solution may be carried out, with a repeat every two to three months if you are really desperate!

Nematodes are tiny parasitic thread-like worms which penetrate the roots and live there. They show as lumpy swellings on the roots, and cause the plant to wilt and lack

vigor. The best treatment is to discard the plant, perhaps saving a leaf or center as described for the mealy bug treatment. Fortunately nematodes don't occur too often in African violets, but it's still a good idea to "be prepared".

The larvae of fungus gnats and springtails may cause some damage to fine hair roots, but this is not certain, and damage to the plants is negligible.

4. Diseases.

The usual disease to attack roots is a fungal disease - root rot. The plant usually collapses very rapidly with the roots turning brown and often going mushy. Treatment is to cut away the rotted part, spray with a fungicide and replant.

The best way to avoid fungal disease is to pay strict attention to cleanliness, watering, temperature and airiness around the plant.

*Reprinted from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.
Mt. Waverley, Australia*

SEND YOUR CHOICES

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning and even experienced growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow?

Between now and May 1, 1998, every member of AVSA should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson • 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

or email your votes to: floydll@earthlink.net

or through a link on the AVSA website: <http://avsa.org>



In Memory

OPAL RAGSDALE

Honorary Life Member of the Memphis AVC, Opal Ragsdale, passed away in September, 1997. Opal had not been an active member in recent years due to her health, but she is remembered as a vital part of the club.

FRANCES BEAVER

Frances Beaver of Shawnee, Kansas passed away in September, 1997. A member of the AVC of Greater Kansas City, Mid-America AVS, Midwest AV Judges Council, and Missouri Valley AV Council, Frances enjoyed attending violet events throughout the midwest, as well as AVSA National conventions.

VIOLA J. TUCKER

The Columbus AVS (Ohio) lost charter member, Viola J. Tucker in November, 1997. Serving in many positions in both the CAVS and the Ohio State AVS, Viola was also a Teacher of Judging Schools and served as a Master Judge.



CAROLINE FLEISCH

Caroline Fleisch of Minneapolis, MN, passed away in November, 1997. She was a Life Member of the North Star AV Council, AVSM, Judges Council of MN and AVSA. Caroline shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with each new member, always encouraging them to enter shows and grow better plants.

Showcase

'Honey Berry'

New Introduction

1997 AVSA National Show

Hybridized by:

H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Kohleria 'Laura'

From the AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

Exhibited by:

Tony Hullerman

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky





'Suncoast Lavender Silk'

From the Best AVSA

Standard Collection

1997 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Phyllis King***

*Hybridized by: **S. Williams***

Standard

*Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco***

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Ruth Carapella from Idaho initiated a great discussion when she presented to the computer Gesneriphile list the question, "What do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing violets?" You should have seen the wonderful responses! I wrote her asking if I could use her idea in this column and focus on gesneriads. She heartily agreed. So, Dear Readers, **what do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing GESNERIADS?** Write or e-mail me with your advice knowing it may show up in this column.

It's time for New Year's resolutions, so here are a few of mine:

1. Wash out my reservoirs before visitors think I'm storing a life time supply of mint jelly in those containers.
2. Quit playing "Hide and Seek" with my fertilizers 1/4 teaspoon. I should attach it to one of those "key finder" gadgets.
3. Grow 6 "new to me" other gesneriads and violets.
4. Maintain the 70 pounds I lost in 1997 with diet and exercise. See my new photo above!!

I highly recommend growing "new to you" violets and other gesneriads! I taught gesneriad judging schools in Florida and in Kansas City this past year. On February 21, 1998, I'll teach another one in Austin, Texas. I always encourage people to audit my school even if they don't want to become gesneriad judges. Just like attending AVSA judging schools, you learn so much!

Growing Gesneriads in Sphagnum Moss

In November, 1997, I participated in the Lone Star African Violet Council's convention. **Delores Gibbs** from San Marcos, Texas, won blue ribbons with several very well grown gesneriads. She primarily grows gesneriads in sphagnum moss obtained at a local building supply store. Let me clearly state that there's no soil or perlite in the pot. She wicks her sphagnum using one part of a 3-ply wick. I examined a pot with a Chinita in it.

The sphagnum is not loose, but isn't packed ultra

tightly either. Delores told me she uses 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon. She leaches the pot but not with any set schedule. Her stands have double lights, and she uses Sylvania's Gro-lux wide spectrum lights. She has inspired me to try this new method.

I will casually mention that I won Best Gesneriad at the Texas AV convention with a *Smithiantha zebrina* hybrid. This 13 inch tall plant had stunningly beautiful, green-black leaves covered with orange-red hairs. The lower leaves were approximately 6" wide by 9" long. It's a rhizomatous plant which will eventually have bright orange blossoms. Without blossoms, this plant is quite appropriate for the 'foliage only' class. I obtained the rhizomes from a friend in North Dakota whom I met on the Gesneriphile list. He and I exchanged rhizomes last spring which is a great way to introduce new gesneriads to one's collection.

I highly recommend your local club exchange rhizomes and tubers with a club in another state. Mail them after the last frost of the season. If frozen, they'll arrive as mush.

New Zealand Sphagnum Moss

While attending the AVSA convention in Florida I had a chance to see **Mollie Howell's** home and prize winning gesneriads. At one time she was able to get milled sphagnum moss and added that into her potting soil for her *Streptocarpus* plants. Mollie introduced me to fat, fluffy New Zealand Sphagnum Moss. Although it's more expensive than regular sphagnum moss, I tried it and highly recommend it for rooting tip cuttings. I am always worried about mold, insects, snail eggs, and fungus in any type of moss. Therefore, I boil a pot of water. Then I shut off the burner and add the sphagnum. The moss is pushed down into the water with a wooden spoon. I quickly put a lid on top of the pot and let it cool for several hours before draining off the excess water.

If you use something other than plain violet soil for gesneriads, or if you grow gesneriads hydroponically, please write to me.

Coming Events



January 16 - 18 - MISSOURI

St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO
Info: (314) 569 - 3117

February 1 & 2 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale
Lakeland Garden Ctr., 802 E. Orange St., Lakeland, FL
Feb 1 - 11am - 6pm
Feb 2 - noon - 5:30
Info: (941) 665 - 4867

February 7 - 15 - OHIO

National Home & Garden SuperShow
Cleveland's International Exposition Center
Info: (800) 600 - 0307

February 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

February 14 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

February 14 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Judged Show/Sale
Christown Mall, 19th Ave. & Bethany Home Rd.,
Phoenix, AZ
10am - 5pm
Info: Thelma Heinrich (602) 585 - 0523

February 15 & 16 - MISSOURI

AVC of Greater Kansas City Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania,
Kansas City, MO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: (816) 796 - 8378

February 21 & 22 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS Show
ElCon Mall, 3601 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ
Sat - 10am - 9pm
Sun - noon - 5pm
Info: (520) 326 - 3057

February 21 - March 1 - NORTH CAROLINA

38th Annual Southern Spring Show
"America the Beautiful"
Info: Kristi Helms (800) 849 - 0248

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVSA, 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave.,
Tampa, FL
Feb 27 - noon - 9pm
Feb 28 - 10am - 9pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: John Menish (813) 681 - 1910

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida Annual Show
Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 North Federal Highway,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Info: Bea Marx (954) 581 - 0817

February 28 & March 1 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens, US Highway 231,
North Montgomery, AL
Feb 28 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Info: (334) 567 - 5433

February 28 & March 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Show/Sale
Corpus Christi Garden Ctr., 5325 Greeley Dr., Corpus
Christi, TX
Feb 28 - 1pm - 6pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

February 28 & March 1 - KANSAS

Wichita AV Study Club Show/Sale
701 N. Amidon, Wichita, KS
Feb 28 - 10am - 4pm
March 1 - 1pm - 3:30pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 2877

February 28 & March 1 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Ctr., 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK
Feb 28 - 11am - 5pm
March 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

March 6 & 7 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Show/Sale
Fair Haven United Methodist Church
1330 Gessner, Houston, TX
March 6 - 2pm - 5pm
March 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

March 6 & 7 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Mar 6 - noon - 4pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Patti Schwindt (407) 423 - 4750

March 7 & 8 - OHIO

FloralScape '98
Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave.
Info: (216) 721 - 1695

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS Annual Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.
March 7 - 2pm - 5pm
March 8 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665 - 7958

March 12 & 14 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS Annual Show/Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
Avenue K at Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX
March 12 & 13 - 10am - 9pm
March 14 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lee Co. Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
March 13 - 9am - 6:30pm
March 14 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542 - 9193

March 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA
March 13 - 2pm - 5pm
March 14 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

March 14 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AV Society and
Moonlight AVS 1998 Sale and Exhibit
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr.,
Ft. Worth
Hours: 9am - noon
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVS Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank,
12396 Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50)
Spring Hill, FL
March 14 - 10:30am - 7pm
March 15 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 14 & 15 - LOUISIANA

Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle Street
March 14 - 2pm - 5pm
March 15 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

March 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
March 14 - noon - 5pm
March 15 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 14 & 15 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Highway
March 14 - 2pm - 5pm
March 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: 473 - 8726

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Bayview Community Center, 12th Ave. and Lloyd St.
Pensacola, FL
March 14 - 2pm - 6pm
March 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: Jan Kurtz (850) 932 - 8093

March 14 & 15 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AVS Show/Sale
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Center, Orchid Room
University Drive, Ft. Worth, TX
March 14 - 1pm - 5pm
March 15 - 1pm - 4pm
Virginia Linson
Info: 481 - 2350

March 18 - 21 - NORTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 42nd Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the First Goldsboro AVS
Hilton Inn Greenville, NC
Open to Public: Saturday, March 21, 10am - 4pm
Info: Lorena Bunn (919) 747 - 8917

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center,
University Dr., Ft. Worth
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Show
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave.,
La Verne, CA
March 27 - 1pm - 6pm
March 28 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQuown (909) 672 - 7353

April 3 & 4 - CANADA

Stampede AVS 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Market Mall Shopping Center, Fountain Court Area,
3625 Shaganappi Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Winston J. Goretzky (403) 241 - 8313
(leave question on voice mail,
with return contact information.) or
email goretzky@cadvision.com

April 3 - 5 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave., just south of Hwy.
694, Maplewood, MN
Fri - 10am - 9pm
Sat - 10am - 6pm
Sun - noon - 6pm
Info: Dolores Harrington (612) 571 - 0212

April 3 & 4 - ALABAMA

Early Bird VC Annual Show/Sale
Garden Center Bldg., Ruth B. Strange Auditorium,
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Fri - 2pm - 4pm
Sat - 9am - 3pm
Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
April 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm
April 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Karyn Cichocki (973) 579 - 7914

April 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

AVS of Fort Walton Beach Annual Show/Sale
Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther, FL
Info: (850) 678 - 6902, (850) 863 - 2529,
(850) 651 - 1658

April 18 & 19 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
Annual AV Exposition
Chalet du Parc Maisonneuve,
4601 Sherbrooke Est, Montréal,
Quebec, Canada
Sat - 10am - 5pm
Sun - 10am - 4pm
Info: (514) 990 - 5701

Over a year ago, Jim Eyerdom closed the doors of Granger Gardens after nearly fifty years of producing some of America's most beloved African violets. Yet, questions remain. Why would one of the country's largest African violet producers call it quits? In a recent telephone interview, Jim gave me the answers.

Granger Gardens began as a truck farm shortly after World War II. Owners Hugh and Grace Eyerdom soon built greenhouses in which to grow celery and tomatoes and start other plants. When son Dale brought home an African violet, Grace grew it and began buying others wherever she could. Soon they were being grown in some spare space in one of the greenhouses.

When Grace advertised in the classified section of a local paper that African violets were available, people crowded the parking lot and adjacent road to get in on America's new love. The year was 1949.

Before long, Hugh was hybridizing to get his own varieties. Many of those varieties have been named to AVSA's Honor Roll and are still very popular. Using up to one-half acre of greenhouse space, the Eyerdoms continued to grow and sell outstanding varieties. (See article on Granger Gardens in July/Aug 1987 AVM).

Hugh and Grace's son, Dale, came into the business. Later, grandson Jim, came on board. After the deaths of Hugh and Dale, Jim had to take a serious look at the future and weigh the factors he was facing.

One of Jim's considerations were the aging greenhouses. The cost to replace an old steam heat boiler was going to be prohibitive. The cost of heating oil has risen over the years, as have maintenance and insurance costs.

In most businesses, the cost of production can be passed on to the customers, but not in this case. Many African violets growers are willing to buy a plant or two from a super market or department store. The plants grow and bloom for a few weeks and are then thrown away. Soon two or three are purchased again and the cycle is repeated. The mass marketers have created a disposable African violet for which consumers will pay a limited amount.

The hobbyist is willing to pay more, but there are not enough of them to justify huge expenditures for updating equipment. Jim said, "We were too big for what needed to be done."

Granger Gardens' competitors have another advantage. Most African violets sell during the first four months of the year. Many greenhouses are now buying young starter

plants in January from large growers and growing them to sell by May. Other floral crops such as poinsettias are then grown for later seasonal sales.

"For hybridizers like us, we had to stay open twelve months a year even though eight months of that year we were not meeting expenses," said Jim.

Another huge factor in the decision to close is the change in American society. Fewer women are staying home now. Women who enter the work force are less inclined to be involved with African violets. Spare time for all family members also seems to have decreased. Over all, the customer base has declined over the past twenty years.

Then there are the intangibles Jim had to consider. Running a large greenhouse is fraught with dangers and worries. A power outage or hail storm can put a grower out of business.

Shipping schedules must be juggled so customers across the country will receive their plants when they want them. Labor strikes and airline delays were other factors.

The owner of a business cannot quit at 5:00 p.m., but must work until the job is finished. Jim worked until 6:00 p.m. or later six days a week, then spent two to three hours spraying on Sunday morning.

Jim's mother and grandmother are supportive of the closing. Jim explained that "...all they had to do was look at the bottom line." While they were not yet losing money, the business soon would have if changes were not made.

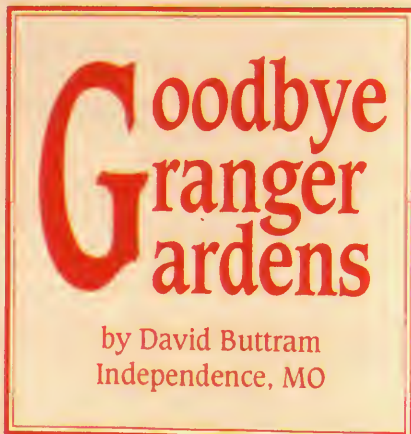
At age forty, Jim is not the first person to make a career change. Within a month of closing down operations, he was employed by Cleveland Floral Products and is using his experience and knowledge to call on greenhouses to sell plastic floral products. He loves the challenge.

Thankfully, the outstanding introductions from Granger Gardens will continue into the foreseeable future, as Jim has built some benches with lights in his basement and is growing stock plants of the best recent varieties for breeding purposes.

He will continue to hybridize and make his introductions available to the African violet community. His plans are to release a few varieties every year for a while.

Though he doesn't miss the pressure of running his own business, Jim does miss talking and corresponding with the many friends he and his family have made over the years.

Commercial growers face incredible challenges in keeping prices low yet earning a decent profit. Please be supportive of your AVSA Commercial members lest we see others go the way of Granger Gardens.





1998 CONVENTION AWARDS SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Society Awards – Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Trailer	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Semiminiature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Miniature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Species	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Vintage Violet	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Design Division Amateur or Commercial

Best Design in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best Design in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Design in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design	\$25.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables

Best Commercial Display Table	\$125.00 & Blue Rosette
2nd Best Commercial Display Table	\$100.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best Commercial Display Table	\$75.00 & White Rosette
4th Best Commercial Display Table	\$50.00 & Honorable Mention Rosette
Best African Violet on Display Tables	\$50.00 & Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Special Awards – Commercial Division

Specified Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Standard Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants	\$50.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables and Specimen Plants

Best New Cultivar	\$75.00, Blue Rosette and Plaque
2nd Best New Cultivar	\$50.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	\$25.00 & White Rosette

Special Awards – Design Division

Specified Awards – Design Division

Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council	
Best Dish Garden	\$25.00
Memorial Award for Ruth Longmire donated by Margaret Schmierer	

President's Award

Best African Violet in Show – Amateur
Handpainted China Plate

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of \$50.00, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1998. Sacramento Convention to the individual, club or affiliate obtaining 25 or more new members during 1997.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 1998.

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette
Best African Violet in Show	Silver
Best Standard Trailer	\$10.00
Best Episcia	\$10.00
Best Species	\$10.00
Best Species	Rosette
Best Species	\$50.00
Best Bustle Leaf or Wasp Blossom	\$50.00
Best Miniature	\$25.00
Best semiminiature	\$25.00
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00
Best Standard Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Semimini Green Foliage Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette
2nd Best Vintage Violet	\$10.00

Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Nancy Amelung
Nancy Amelung
Nancy Amelung
AV Society of Western New York
Cape Code Violetry
Belisle's Violet House
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Barbara Elkin

Specific Awards - Amateur Division

Audrey Buchanan	\$100.00
Everdina	\$10.00
King Thunder	\$10.00
Mickey Mouse	\$10.00
Rob's Perfect Peach	\$25.00 & Rosette
Tomahawk	\$50.00

Memorial Award for Audrey Ann Buchanan donated by James Buchanan
Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Magic Knight AV Society
Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Lincoln AV Society

Other Awards - Amateur Division

\$100.00 donated by

AV Council of Florida
Lone Star AV Council

Missouri Valley AV Council

\$25.00 donated by

Lynn Lombard
Montrose AV Society
N. Texas AV Judges Council
N. California Council of AV Societies

The First AV Society of Dallas
Unpredictable AV Society
Ruth Wheeler
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs
Enid Wood

\$50.00 donated by

Upper Pinellas AV Society

\$30.00 donated by

AV Society of Minnesota

\$20.00 donated by

Yvonne Acree
AV Club of Greater Atlanta
AV Society of Dayton
AV Society of Lower Bucks County
First Denton AVS

Dolores Gibbs
Jim & Linda Golubski
Jane Rexilius
Fred Roth
Union County Chapter AVSA

\$25.00 donated by

Aca's Violet Tree
AV Study Club
Alpha AV Society
Central Texas Judges Council
First Nighter AV Society
Bill & Paula Foster
Joan Halford
Maurice & Jackie Jones
Lakeshore AV Society

Ohio State AV Society
Quad City AV Society
Mrs. Josephine Schindler
St. Louis AV Judges Council
South Coast AV Society
Spring Branch AV Club
Memorial Award for Albert Standliff
Donated by
AV Society of Denver Chapter One
Mary Ann Switzer

\$15.00 donated by

Gladys Cartwright

Richmond AV Society

\$10.00 donated by

AV Club of Greater Kansas City
AV Club of Morris County
Amethyst AV Club
Carolyn Burr

Jan & Ron Davidson
First AV Society of Wichita Falls
First Austin AV Society
Pittsburgh Violet Society

Other Awards - Design Division

Albuquerque AV Club
Kathy Lahti
Meredith Hall
Amethyst AV Club

Fran Russom

Carolyn Burr

Other Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

\$50.00

Sacramento Convention Committee

Other Awards - Commercial Display Tables

\$300.00
\$200.00
\$100.00
\$50.00

Sacramento Convention Committee
Sacramento Convention Committee
Sacramento Convention Committee
Sacramento Convention Committee

Sweepstakes

Best Commercial Display Table
2nd Best Commercial Display Table
3rd Best Commercial Display Table
4th Best Commercial Display Table

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PLANTS

Hunger Signs in Violets

by Dr. Charles Cole

Providing good nutrition for our African violet plants involves more than purchasing a fertilizer product and applying it to the plants. We need a basic knowledge of what a plant needs and how a specific nutrient affects a plant under a given set of conditions. If we understand how to use specific fertilizer elements we may use them to obtain a desired response from our plants. A familiar example of this is seen when we reduce the use of nitrogen in our fertilization program in an effort to enhance variegation in certain cultivars.

There are 16 chemical elements which are essential for plant growth. Often we see them grouped into two groups, the non-mineral elements and the mineral elements.

The 3 non-mineral elements are Carbon (C), Hydrogen (H), and Oxygen (O). These elements are obtained from water and from the air. They are utilized in the form of H₂O, water and CO₂, Carbon dioxide, in the process of photosynthesis. A deficiency of carbon dioxide, water or light can result in reduced growth but may produce no other visible symptoms.

The 13 mineral elements essential for normal plant growth are absorbed from the soil (potting media). These elements are divided into 3 groups; the primary nutrients, the secondary nutrients and the micronutrient.

Primary Nutrients are often called the fertilizer nutrients. They consist of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). The percentages reported on many commercial fertilizer containers refer to these nutrients. For example, 5-10-5 refers to the percent of N, P & K respectively in the product.

Secondary Nutrients are often deficient in soils but not nearly so often as the primary nutrients. These nutrients are: Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) & Sulfur (S). These nutrients are utilized in many processes which takes place in the plant and deficiencies seriously effect plant health.

Micronutrient are often called minor elements or trace elements. Many commercial products have one or more of these elements added. Micronutrient included; Mn - Manganese, Iron (Fe), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Boron (B), Molybdenum (Mo) and Chlorine (Cl).

Although essential in trace amounts these micronutrient in excess amounts can be toxic to plants, resulting in damage to the plants which is as serious or more serious than if they occurred in deficient amounts.

The availability and utilization of all plant nutrients are affected by water, temperature, light and pH.

In general water which is often called the universal solvent is necessary for dissolution and

transport of nutrients throughout the plant system and for the completion of many of the continuous processes which go on within a plant. Temperature, within its tolerant range regulates the speed of reactions within a plant; initiating some reactions, speeding up reactions, slowing reaction and stopping some reactions. Light acts as a power source, also effecting reactions.

These 3 factors have been discussed in detail in a previous article in the AVSA Magazine (Vol. 50, No. 6, pp 12-14).

SOIL pH

The pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance; soil, water, etc. It is measured on a scale of from 0-14. A pH of 7 is neutral. A pH above 7 is alkaline, like ammonia and a pH below 7 is acid, like vinegar.

When soil particles are saturated with ions of calcium, magnesium, potassium or sodium it has a high pH and is said to be basic or alkaline. These soils are often referred to as "sweet" soils. When these ions are replaced with hydrogen ions the soil has a low pH and is said to be acid. These soils are often referred to as "sour" soils. Leaching is a common cause of sour soils, as the ions creating a high pH are leached out and are replaced with H ions.

The pH of the media in which plants are grown can greatly affect their health. The pH plays an important role in determining which nutrients are available and in what amounts. This is especially true in the case of K, C, Mg and S. Nutrients can either be tied up and unviable or released in toxic amounts, depending upon the pH.

The most favorable pH for nutrient uptake by plants ranges from 6.3 - 6.7. However, certain plants prefer more acid conditions while others thrive in higher alkaline conditions. African violets prefer a pH of 6.5-6.7.

PLANT NUTRITION

It is extremely difficult to induce nutrient deficiency symptoms in the African Violet. Research has shown that you may grow AV's in sterile soil for 18-24 mos. and still show no symptoms and a specific nutrient deficiency.

The African violet stores nutrients in its stems, petioles and leaves. This makes the plant a very well buffered system which is capable of "borrowing" nutrients from one part of the plant to feed another part. This movement of nutrients and "food" from one part of the plant to another is known as translocation. Seldom do symptoms of nutrient deficiencies appear in A.V.'s while the deficiency occurs, however symptoms may occur much later, sometimes even after the problem has

been corrected.

PLANT FOOD

When we fertilize African violets we put nutrients into the soil not plant food. African violets, like other plants, manufacture their own food. Nutrients are taken up by the roots and transported to the leaves. Here in the presence of light, using chlorophyll as a catalyst the nutrients are, through the process of photosynthesis, manufactured into amino acids, proteins, starches, sugar, carbohydrates and other products that plants use as food for plant growth and development. The products of photosynthesis, plant food, is then translocated to other areas of the plant where they are used by the plant or stored for future use.

FERTILIZATION

The soil or potting media in which plants grow serves as a pantry to accumulate and store nutrients for use by plants.

Of all of the essential nutrient elements only Nitrogen moves freely through the soil in the form of nitrates. Nitrogen is readily water soluble and can travel anywhere water can go. The other nutrients move little to none and are available only where plant roots reach them. The availability of nutrients in the soil is effected by temperature and soil pH.

PRIMARY NUTRIENTS

Nitrogen is abundantly available in nature but not in a form available to plants. Plants take up N in the form of nitrate salts and ammonium salts. These are converted into amino acids. Amino acids are combined to form proteins. Proteins are used to build plant tissues.

Nitrogen is often referred to as the "foliage" nutrient. Fertilizing a plant deficient in N often results in a quick spurt of plant growth and an intensification of the green color as N is found in the chlorophyll molecule which gives a plant its green color.

A deficiency in N produces a condition called chlorosis. This is manifest in a loss of green color and the plants appear "yellowed" or faded in color. The older leaves of a plant are the first affected because nitrogen, is translocated from older tissue to the younger actively growing tissue in the crown of a plant, leaving the older leaves deficient in the element.

Phosphorus is necessary for the utilization of energy in plant metabolism. It is necessary for the photosynthetic reaction which transforms the energy of light into carbohydrates. Phosphorus is essential for proper cell division. A deficiency in P results in reduced growth, thin stalks, small leaves and in severe deficiencies a stunted growth.

A deficiency in P often results in a reddish, purplish or brown color developing in plant leaves, especially along the leaf veins. Phosphorus is often referred to as the "root" nutrient and is often applied to give the root system of young plants a boost.

Potassium is needed for protein and carbohydrate formulation. Potassium activates specific enzymes in a plant and regulates a number of chemical reactions necessary for

metabolism and growth. Potassium enhances the plant's ability to resist disease, cold temperature and other adverse conditions.

Plants deficient in K may show a dark green or blue-green color. Necrotic (dead) spots may occur on leaves or along the leaf margin. Plant growth is slowed under severe conditions. Blossom and seed formulation can be affected.

Symptoms will appear on the older leaves first as K is translocated from the older to the younger leaves.

Potassium is often referred to as the blossom or seed nutrient.

SECONDARY NUTRIENTS

Calcium is a component of the cell wall. It is necessary for cell division and elongation. Calcium acts as a cement to hold cell walls together and to hold one cell to another, building tissue.

As Ca is not translocated in appreciable amounts, symptoms are found first and most severely in the youngest leaves or crown of a plant. In severe deficiencies the growing part of plants may die. Plants deficient in Ca may have very poor root growth and damaged roots making them very susceptible to infection by bacteria and fungi.

A delicate balance in Ca is necessary in plants. A deficiency may create a toxicity of aluminum, boron, magnesium or potassium.

Magnesium is the key element in the chlorophyll molecule. It is often called the "companion for phosphorous" as the two combine, facilitating their movement to their proper site in a plant for utilization. Magnesium is necessary for amino acid and fat synthesis. It also affects the viability of seeds.

Magnesium is readily translocated so symptoms will be found in the oldest leaves first. Deficient plants may show marginal chlorosis or chlorosis may appear as yellowish blotches on a leaf. Damaged leaves often show a yellow, orange or red pigmentation.

Sulfur is needed for the formation of new cells and chlorophyll. Sulfur is a component of certain amino acids which are found in most protein molecules.

Symptoms of S deficiency appear much like those of N deficiency. Plants are chlorotic, spindly and grown poorly.

MICRONUTRIENT

Iron, although needed in very small amounts, is most essential to the health of plants. Iron functions as a catalyst in the formation of chlorophyll. It also acts as an oxygen carrier within the plant. In acid conditions iron is readily available but under alkaline conditions iron is held in a form not available to most plants.

Deficient plants show symptoms in the youngest tissue first, as iron is not readily translocated within the plant.

The first signs of a deficiency appears as a pale green color of the tissue between the leaf veins while the veins themselves remain green. Under severe deficiency entire leaves or even an entire plant will become yellow to almost white and the leaves may begin to die from the tip back.

Manganese activates enzymes involved in chlorophyll formation. Symptoms appear in the youngest leaves first and look much like iron deficiency with yellowing between the leaf veins. Sometimes brownish or blackish spots may occur along a leaf. The tissue in the spots may eventually die causing dead spots or streaks between leaf veins.

Zinc deficiency may cause conditions called "little leaf" and "rosette." These conditions are the result of abnormal tissue growth. Leaves may become twisted and may have necrotic spots within the leaf.

Copper deficient plants often have leaves which are dark green in color and have their margins rolled up. Flowering and fruiting are curtailed.

Boron deficiency may be seen as damaged plant terminals. Tissue may appear hard, dry and brittle. Leaves may become distorted and the stems may be rough and cracked. Corky ridges or spots may appear on the plant stem.

Molybdenum deficiency will appear as a chlorosis between leaf veins. Leaves often appear mottled and their margins tend to curl or roll up.

Chlorine deficiencies apparently do not occur naturally. Only artificially induced deficiencies have been observed in plants.

When all of the above information has been digested you may want to go to the following key to plant-nutrient deficiencies and try your hand at identifying some plant-nutrient problems.

To use this key read 1a and 1b. Observe your problem plant and see which of the statements your plant fits. Then proceed to the next couplet of statements as directed by your choice (1a or 1b). Continue in this manner until a statement indicates the specific nutrient responsible for your set of plant symptoms.

Key to Plant-Nutrient Deficiencies

- 1a. Problem effect is general on entire plant, or are confined to older or lower leaves 2
- 1b. Problem effect is localized on younger (terminal) leaves or plant. 6
- 2a. Problem effect general on entire plant; lower leaves shows yellowing and drying up (firing). Acute stages develop reddish to purplish color on lower leaves 3
- 2b. Problem effects localized, appears as a loss of green color or mottling (chlorosis). May have dead (necrotic) spots on lower leaves. Very little if any drying-up of lower leaves. 4
- 3. Color is faded, beginning with tips and margins of leaflets until all foliage becomes a lighter green than normal. Over time, the color may fade to pale yellow. In extreme cases margins of lower leaves become devoid of chlorophyll and curl, sometimes the leaves will "fire-up". Stunted growth and defoliation are characteristics of prolonged problems Nitrogen
- 3₁ Foliage crinkly and dark green. In acute cases lower leaves become purplish. Plants stand stiffly erect. Leaflets, leaf margins and petioles take an upward direction. Leaflets are often cup-shaped. Leaves fail to expand to normal size. With acute deficiency growth is

- seriously affected Phosphorus
- 4. Foliage darker green than normal. Leaf reduced in size. Internodes short. Plants have a humped-up, recurved appearance. Foliage becomes crinkled and veins become sunken. If prolonged the deficiency causes a slight yellowing of the leaves, then a bronzing develops from the tips of the plant. Plants become weakened and are more susceptible to disease organisms Potassium
- 4₁ Lower leaves lighter green than normal. 5
- 5. Chlorosis begins at tips and margin of leaves and progresses between the veins toward the center of the leaflet. If prolonged the tissue between the veins is filled with brown and dead areas. A definite bulging between veins and thickening of the leaves occurs. Effected leaves are brittle. Magnesium
- 5₁ The lower leaves are chlorotic and may develop grayish-brown to bronze irregular spots. This usually occurs first on leaves mid way into the center of the plant (midway up the stem) but will eventually affect most of the plant. Spots become sunken and the tissue eventually dies. Leaves may be small, thick. Spots may develop on leaf petioles and stem. Margins of leaves may curl upward. Zinc
- 6. Unusual distortions at the tips or bases of young leaves making up the terminal bud. Terminal bud dies. 7
- 6₁ Terminal bud remains alive. Chlorosis occurs on newer leaves. Chlorotic leaves may have spots of dead tissue. Veins light to dark green 8
- 7. The young leaves of the terminal bud are lighter green than normal. The lighter color is more pronounced at the base of the leaves. Stem tip may die or have distorted growth. Leaves become thickened and curl upward. The leafstalks become brittle. Purple coloration may develop. Tips and margins of leaves (especially lower leaves) die prematurely Boron
- 8. No pronounced general or uniform yellowing of the leaves. 9
- 8₁ If chlorosis is present it is only slight and uniform through out the leaf. 10
- 9. No pronounced chlorosis. Young leaves become limp and remain permanently wilted. Terminal leaves wilt as flower buds are being produced. Tips of leaves dry up and turn brown if deficiency persists Copper
- 9₁ If leaves turn yellow it is a slight, general yellowing similar to nitrogen deficiency and leaves do not dry up. Growth is stunted. Some spotting of leaves occurs in advanced stages of deficiency Sulfur
- 10. A slight uniform chlorosis on young leaves. Tips and margins of leaves remain green longest. Principle veins retain normal green color. Tissue gradually becomes pale yellow, almost white in extreme cases. No dead spots are found in leaves Iron
- 10₁ Leaves become lighter green than normal between the leaf veins. This is most pronounced in the center of the plant. These areas may become yellow to white in severe cases and may develop small brown spots. The outer leaves are the last to be affected. . . . Manganese

A Report on Growing African Violets from Commercial Seed

by K.C. Arceneaux • Blackburg, VA

Whenever I look at an African violet seed, I am respectful of the complexity of the genetic coding that is contained in such a tiny package, a seed smaller than a grain of pepper and barely visible without magnification. I am now hybridizing my own violets, but in preparation for planting the seeds from "home-grown" pods, I wanted to refine my technique, and therefore I practiced on commercially produced seed. I have now made four attempts (with varying success) in growing purchased seed, and would like share my experiences, and to report on the quality of the plants obtained in this way. I have grown seed purchased from the Park Seed Company and from Tinari Greenhouses, and have noticed some interesting differences in the plants resulting from these seeds.

I feel that there have been improvements recently in the quality of seed obtained from commercial sources, because the plants resulting from the first seed I planted were very ordinary, in comparison to the later crops I have grown. I grew violets from seed several years ago, which were ordered from the Park Seed Company catalog. I was not yet committed to growing violets "seriously" then. I planted the seeds, somewhat carelessly, in potting soil, I covered the container with plastic wrap, set it under some shop lights and then forgot it completely. It was probably months later that I thought to look in the container. (Yes, months. . . I was VERY busy, with a two year old daughter, and I was in the process of finishing my doctorate.) When I eventually remembered the African violet seeds, with a pang of guilt, I was quite surprised to find any living plants. There was a healthy looking crop of algae, and six sturdy African violets plants – plants that I assume were the hardiest of the crop; all the others having been overtaken by the algae. I potted them up, and all these plants grew to blooming size and beyond. I still have them, or their offspring, even though their quality was not stellar. All but two were blossom-droppers, and those two have nearly identical foliage and double purple blossoms – plain, but

floriferous, and very forgiving of neglect. In addition to those, there were two trailers, one with small purple stars with Geneva edges, and one with small, fuchsia colored pansies. There were also two plants with single, pink pansies, and one of these two is possibly the ugliest violet ever grown. (My daughter named it "Yucky.") It has grayish green, very hairy leaves; it is quite large (or would like to be, if I permitted it), with wide gaps between the peduncles, and it has only one, or at the most two, blossoms per peduncle. The blossoms drop after only a few days. However, this plant is nearly indestructible, and I have resigned myself to making room for it.

My second effort at seed growing was also less than commendable. These were also Park seeds, purchased in 1996. I had placed the container of recently germinated seedlings on a window sill on a cloudy day (I had not yet acquired a Flora Cart). The clouds lifted; the rest of the day was hot and bright. The little guys cooked in their plastic-wrap covered container. There were no survivors. However, my seed-growing adventures were not over. Some weeks later as I was cleaning out the cupboard where I keep vegetable and garden-flower seeds, I discovered the empty package of violet seeds and tossed it out. My daughter, Robin, rescued the packet from the trash and said, "There is still something in here!" At first I didn't see them, and then I did – tiny specks that could have been dust clinging to the sides of the packet. To humor her, I planted them. There were about twelve seeds, and twelve plants germinated and were subsequently grown to blooming size. These plants seemed like little miracles to me, and I have followed their progress closely. They produced some interesting plants that I will want to keep in my collection.

Since my first two violet-seed disasters, I have revitalized my hobby, and now have three plant stands and am giving my plants the attention they deserve. By now, I have grown seed from both Park and Tinari Greenhouses, and would like to describe some of the differences I found in the plants that resulted from these seeds. The Park seed

was called "African Violet Fantasy Hybrid" seed, and from Tinari's I purchased "Variegated African Violet Seed". I am also growing a crop of 72 miniature seedlings from Park, the "Fantasy Teacup Violets."

A phone call to the Park Seed Company revealed that their African violet seeds are produced by Ron Nadeau, who also supplies many growers who specialize in mail order violets and supplies. I was able to interview Anne Tinari by phone, about the Tinari seed. Mrs. Tinari was most gracious and took time out of her busy spring schedule to answer my questions. She informed me that the seed sold by Tinari is a mixture of seeds hybridized at the Tinari Greenhouses, and also from suppliers of seed. She emphasized the importance of following the sheet of instructions included with the violet seeds, and said that most crop failures are caused by failures in following the directions carefully, or from being impatient. Some violet seeds will germinate after ten days to two weeks, but some take considerably longer. Concerning hybridizing, she said that although many improvements in violets have come about as a result of hybrid crosses, not nearly enough credit has been given to sports (mutations) in producing many of the dramatic changes we have seen in violets over the years. An example she gave of the importance of mutations was the 'Lillian Jarrett', or mosaic, variegation. The original plant had been offered by Tinari Greenhouses for a number of years when it mutated to the marbled type of variegation we now know as 'Lillian Jarrett' variegation. Vegetative propagation (putting down a leaf), subsequently reproduced this mosaic variegation, a trait that has been very useful in hybridizing. 'Tommie Lou' variegation is the best known type of variegation, and also originated in a sport, from the violet 'White Pride'. Tinari Greenhouses still carry 'Tommie Lou', and I have it in my collection; it is a beautiful plant.

The Nadeau standard seedlings I have grown have thicker, juicier looking petioles and foliage than the Tinari plants; characteristics I have seen in some Optimara or Ultra Violet plants. The colors can be wild! Of the twelve surviving plants from my seed-starting disaster, there was a chimera, another with fantasy edging that may or may not be chimeral (vegetative propagation will settle this question), and another is pink with wine-colored glitter, and very unusual fantasy markings. The chimera is a white star with well-defined pinwheel spokes in hot pink, with numerous purple fantasy dots and dashed lines in the pink. Unfortunately, the blossoms drop, as is the case with many chimeras, although I suspect that this is not due to any genetic characteristic linking chimeral blossoms with single, blossom-dropping traits, but simply because chimeras are relatively rare and many have been registered that would not have been had they been more usual in their color-pattern.

The fantasy-edged plant from the Park crop is spectacular — also a white star (semi-double, stick-tite) with a wide edging in rose, pink, and purple splashes — a real carnival of color. It looks like a more colorful version of the Optimara plant, 'Harlequin'. This plant is a consistent bloomer, and has not been out of bloom since it first began to put up flowers. The plant with the fuchsia blossoms and unusual fantasy markings, I named "Calligraphy," although I don't intend to register it, because the blossoms drop. The blossom color is exotic — raspberry-pink with a wine-colored, glitter overlay, darker at the eye. Each blossom has one, or at the most two, splashes of purple fantasy in broad, tapering strokes, as if they had been made with a calligraphy brush. It is fun trying to guess where the splash will be on each blossom as it opens.

Not all of my 45 Tinari seedlings have bloomed yet, but already I can see that they are very different in character from the Park seeds. While the Park plants are robust, even chunky, the Tinari plants are elegant and refined, although equally vigorous. Most of the plants have 'Tommie Lou' variegation. Some have red-backed leaves, and some white, and while most of the plants have foliage edged in white, some have pure-white or pink markings throughout the leaf, which makes them look like they are woodland plants in dappled sunlight. The rosettes of almost all of these plants shape easily and symmetrically. Some of the plants are quite large, with what my daughter calls "pancake" foliage — very broad, flat leaves.

The first two Tinari plants to bloom had delicate, unusual colors, although the colors of their blooms are not easy to describe, except to say that they are smoky, transparent (rather than opaque or dense), reddish purple (one of the two has slightly darker color). The color is not uniform, but blends as if water had been dropped onto water-color paint and had left lighter halos. The "fade color" of one of these is particularly compelling in that it begins as a dark plum hue and lightens to a soft, smoky lavender. Both of these plants are floriferous and hold their flowers well above the foliage. The foliage shapes into impeccable rosettes. The first plant to bloom was a blossom-dropper, which is not really a disappointment because it will be a challenge to use the plant in hybridizing to see if I can reproduce the color on a double or semi-double blossom. The second plant has stick-tite pansies over nicely variegated foliage.

Most of the Tinari plants that have bloomed for me to date are double or semi-double and do not drop their blossoms, while a third of the Park plants that I grew in the most recent batch are blossom-droppers. Most of the Tinari plants have plain leaf-edges, and a few of them have slightly wavy foliage. Half of the Park plants have ruffled or wavy leaf edges.

In the group of Tinari plants there was a spectacular

semi-mini amongst all of the standard sized plants! It has light green, nearly "hairless" foliage, and sweet little white blossoms (stick-tite pansies) with bright blue edges. As the blossoms mature, the white color gradually darkens to a light, purple/blue blush. It is very floriferous. Another Tinari plant has white, single, stick-tite pansies over lightly feathered, variegated foliage. This plant is a classic, with crystalline-white blossoms. It looks like a fresh, forest perennial, not a tender house plant, and it, also, is quite floriferous. There is another that is quite striking, but is a blossom-dropper. It is a *very* large, hot-pink star on a symmetrical rosette of medium green with white variegation.

When one grows from seed, whether from commercially produced seed or from one's own pods, there is always the chance of producing something different from what can be obtained from sales' rooms or catalogs. One of the Tinari plants may be such a plant, because it is so unusual. It is a small standard, with quilted, spooned leaves and striking edge variegation. Because the leaves are cupped upward, the variegation actually looks like a border of white lace. The spooned foliage seems to be holding as the plant matures, as does the dramatic variegation. This plant took quite a long time to bloom, but was worth the wait. The blossoms are double, ruffled white pansies with fringed edges of lime green, and are in perfect harmony with the light green, "lacy" foliage.

Even though most of the Tinari plants to bloom so far have had purple blossoms (purple being a dominant color, genetically), the variations have been intriguing. One is a dark purple double flower with rust-red petal tips. This unusual coloration is accentuated by the fact that the petal lobes are sharply pointed. The reverse of the blossom is nearly white and as the petals unfurl they look like scrolls of white paper unrolling. The white petal backs darken to lavender as the blossom ages. It could be said that in comparison to the Park seedlings, the Tinari plants are more classical and refined, many with the same neat, heart-shaped leaves and pure white variegation as 'Tommie Lou'. The Park seedlings have more highly-saturated (brighter) color, some with dramatic fantasy; they have thicker plant-substance, but some of the growth patterns are unruly, either bunched in the centers or with petioles that twist.

One thing that I have noticed in these seed-growing adventures is that the plants that are of good quality (with symmetrical growth patterns and stick-tite blossoms, and are floriferous) are as good as many I have seen offered in the catalogs, and many have valuable characteristics, even though the blossoms may not be particularly "different." For example, there is the plant (from my second attempt at growing Park seed), that I have informally named 'Sprite'. 'Sprite' has single/semi-double, dark purple, ruffled blossoms, slightly pointed on the tips, and lettuce-green

ruffled foliage. If I were to describe this plant's personality in human terms, I would say that it is both exuberant and reliable. Unlike many plants with ruffled leaves, 'Sprite' has a well-behaved rosette that arranges itself in careful layers without the need for "tinkering" to achieve perfect symmetry. The flowers are not exceptional – but the contrast between the light green foliage and the very dark blossoms is dramatic. This plant blooms continuously and joyfully, instead of popping out a blossom now and then, or blooming all in a rush and then retiring to rest. Its frills and ruffles are almost like a silly quirk, or a sense of humor.

And then there is one Park seedling that I do plan to register, if it blooms true through the three generations (it has one to go). This one will be 'NRV Ice Storm', the NRV standing for New River Valley, the region in Virginia where I live. A catalog description of this plant might read: single/semi-double stick-tite, white pansy, crinkled edges, lavender shading, darker at the eye, with a fine edging of lavender and then a fine, crisp Geneva edge occasionally blushed with green; light green, pointed, quilted foliage. However, this description doesn't do the plant justice. In its first blooming it averaged eight or more blossoms per peduncle, and it puts up many blooms simultaneously until it is covered with a cloud of blossoms that nearly obscures the plant. It has bloomed continuously since it began. The blossoms have substance and are long lasting, and the color is gorgeous. The lavender shading looks transparent, blending out in veins of lavender to nearly white, and then repeats itself in a dark band of lavender at the petal edges. I grow two other plants with pansy-flowers of white and lavender, and neither compares in floriferousness, longevity of bloom, or subtlety of color.

Then there's "Fatso." My daughter tends to name these seedgrown violets, usually with a nick-name that sticks. Fatso is a plant I would like to keep in my collection, because it has many of the characteristics I look for in a quality plant. It has substantial bluish purple blossoms with a strong Geneva edge. The blossoms are double, but in an unusual way, in that some of the flowers have perfectly overlapped petal lobes, as though one flower were superimposed on another. When 'Fatso' opened its first bud, Robin said, "Look, it has a double chin!" Hence the name "Fatso."

In one of her articles about miniature violets, Pat Richards described a perfect rosette as being like melting butter, where the leaves flow together to make a continuous impression of foliage, rather than an accentuation of individual leaves. 'Fatso' shapes this way effortlessly, with olive green, pointed, lightly quilted leaves. It is plant I would give to a beginner, because it is not touchy and tolerates occasional neglect, and it blooms almost continuously.

And then there are the Park minis. I was quite satisfied

with the results of the (recent) Park crop, and the Tinari crop produced some fine plants that I will want to keep. However, the Park minis were disappointing. The seeds were fresh and the plants vigorous, but every one to bloom so far has been a blossom-dropper. In color, a bright fuchsia seems to predominate, although there have also been some whites, lavenders, and one or two bi-colors. Most of the blossoms have been quite ordinary single pansies.

Even though the Park minis are blossom droppers, there are a few in the batch that are interesting enough for me to want to keep in my collection. One of these has lavender bell-shaped blossoms with darker fantasy splashes, and another has unusually formed flowers. It is a bright pink bell, with deeply scalloped petal lobes, resembling fringe. I haven't seen this form before in a violet, and would like to try using it in a hybridizing experiment. Five of this batch have nicely shaping girl foliage. Among the crop, there seem to be at least two micro-minis, one of them having leaves that are a scant half-an-inch in length. The rosettes of these plants are quite well behaved. Only one of the two has bloomed as yet, and it is one of the most interesting of the group. It has white pansies (droppers) with purple/blue edges on some of the blossoms, while others of the flowers are entirely purple. Also in this group are two that appear to have variegated foliage, of a type I have not seen before. They are a light lime-green streaked with a much darker green, and I am hoping that the variegation holds into these plants' maturity, and through subsequent generations.

My seed-starting method is fairly standard – I use peat pellets, the kind that come in a plastic netting, and a lidded deli container. The peat pellets are moistened with hot water and the excess water squeezed out until the peat is crumbly, but not saturated. It is spread evenly in the deli container, which I have washed well with hot water and soap. The seeds are shaken gently onto a sheet of white paper that is creased in the center to make a trough, and then the seeds are gently tapped onto the surface of the peat, and distributed as evenly as possible. The container is then labeled, including the date of planting, and placed under lights (not in sunlight, however) in a warm spot. I do

not usually have to open the container again until the seedlings are ready to prick out into community pots, where they grow on until large enough to pot up individually. A word of caution (and a thank you to Dr. Jeff Smith for including this word of caution in the seed-growing instructions he provided in response to a question I asked on the "Gesneriphiles" discussion group, on the Internet); do not fertilize the tiny seedlings. Fertilizer, when the seedlings are still very small will produce algae, which can smother the plants. When the seedlings are growing well in their community pots, I begin to feed them with a diluted fertilizer.

I feel that growing from seed can be rewarding, for several reasons. First, it is a relatively inexpensive way to add to a collection, and I have found that plants grown from seed take about the same amount of time to reach blooming size as do plants obtained from vegetative propagation – putting down leaves. I think that growing from seed is a wonderful way to build confidence about growing African violets in general, and to gain respect for the vitality of these terrific plants. When plants are grown from seed, there is the thrill (and insecurity!) of knowing that you have unique plants that do not exist in any other collections (it is always wise to share leaves if you think one of your seed-grown plants might be something special). Whenever one plants from seed, there is the chance that the results will add an intriguing new trait to the African violet fund of genetic material. And my own word of caution – please try to refrain from registering any plants that aren't truly improvements on existing plants, or the Master Variety List will become too cumbersome to be useful. Even though an unregistered plant cannot be entered in shows, it still can be shared and enjoyed. And finally, probably the most compelling reason for growing from seed is because of the mystery of it all, in the knowledge that you have nurtured something beautiful from a tiny speck of a seed that contained within it a miraculous complexity, one that produced blossoms of a particular shape and color, and leaves with specific textures and shapes. You will always have a special connection to a beautiful plant that exists because you nurtured it to a healthy maturity.

AVSA OFFICE
1 (800) 770-AVSA

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998!

Available now for shipping only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

Plus 2 Spectacular New Chimeras!

ROB'S LUCKY PENNY. Very rare, one-of-a-kind variegated foliage! Sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eye, over tiny, pointed fol. w/very unusual variegation - like leaves of euonymus w/very broad, irregular white margin; variegation is totally insensitive to heat; mini (\$10 - limited supply)

ROB'S THINGAMAJIG. Tremendous! A must-have, and sure to be a favorite; pink sdbls. w/prominent blue pinwheel stripes; excellent, dark var. foliage; excellent mini showplant (\$10)

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including "Rob's Sarsparilla" best new intro at '97 AVSA

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S MISSY. A truly lovely plant; large fringed lt. lavender w/cream throat; great grower and bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOONLIT SKY. White w/dark blue throat and lower lobes edged in white; great symmetrical foliage; profuse

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S STARDUST. Extremely unusual! Large purple-black blooms w/distinctive gold 'glitter' salted on lower lobes; must see to believe; very different.

BRISTOL'S SUZY QUE. Perhaps my favorite; never-ending masses of fully dbl. white blooms w/med. lilac-blue lower lobes edged in white held in bouquet above foliage; fantastic

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus dozens of other favorites

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.



Travis Niolets.

3 FREE VIOLETS!

P.O. BOX 42, OCHLOCKNEE, GA 31773

PHONE: 1-912-574-5167 (DAY)

1-912-574-5236 (NIGHT)

FAX: 1-912-574-5605

Order now before May 1, 1998 and get 3 FREE violets of **our choice**. Min. order for this special is **12 PLANTS**. Order from this ad or from 300 varieties listed in our 1998 Catalog. Send \$1.00.

SOME OF THE NEW VARIETIES WE HAVE TO OFFER:

1998 HORTENSE'S HONEYS \$4.00

ALAMO CHARMER
ALAMO COTTON
ALAMO FUN
ALAMO GOLD FEVER
ALAMO HERO
ALAMO JESTER
ALAMO LUSTER
ALAMO ROGUE
ALAMO SPIRIT
ALAMO SUMMER

GLEEFUL ELF

HONEY BERRY
PEPPY PINK
PETITE RUBY
PLANET KID
SUMMER CHARM
TALLY HO
TEEN ICICLE
TEEN SUNSHINE
TEXAS SPACE DUST
WISHFUL TEEN

BEACHCOMBER

BLUE AURA
BLUE DRAGON
BUTTERFLY KISSES
CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES
FINGER PAINTS
HAWAIIAN PEARL
HOLIDAY LIGHTS
ICED MOCHA
IRISH CREAM
IRISH MINT
ISLAND ROSE
LOUISIANA LULLABY
MUSIC BOX DANCER
PRETTY POISON

RASPBERRY RAMPAGE

SAPPHIRE KISSES

MINI AND SEMIMINI

BABY MOONBEAM
COOL BLUE

1997 LYONS \$4.00

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'
APRIL IN PARIS

MINI AND SEMIMINI

CHRISTENING GOWN
CUPID'S ARROW
FLOWER CHILD
ICE PIRATE
KATIA
LEXI'S PARTY DRESS
LITTLE MOONSHINE
LITTLE SNOWBUNNY
SPACE CADET

LOOK FOR EXCITING NEW HYBRIDS FROM TRAVIS' VIOLETS LISTED IN OUR NEW CATALOG

ALSO LYONS 1996 VARIETIES AND OTHER NEW RELEASES. Please list a few substitutes.

1997-98 Plants - \$4.00 ea.: All others \$3.00 ea. Please add \$6.00 or 20%, whichever is greater for First Class Shipping.

Shipping starts April 1st - Weather permitting. **ORDERS SHIPPED IN ORDER RECEIVED.**

Greenhouse open 7 days a week, please call first.

COMMERCIAL MEMBER: AVSA, DIXIE, GSN, GSAVC, and GAVS. State inspected.



STARRLIGHT AFRICAN VIOLET LAMPS

These lamps feed and water the violets with a mat watering system in a ceramic reservoir base. Light is provided with a circular fluorescent tube.

Simply set the violet, in its plastic pot, on the mat.

Lamp for a standard violet - \$59.00

Lamp for 3 mini/SM violets - \$65.00

Plus shipping and handling

Shades sold and shipped separately - \$15.00 ea. + S&H

Also available: Soil Scoops - \$3.00 ea. + S&H (\$1 any size order)

Discounts available on Scoops

"ShoGro" ceramic African Violet Pots with a mat watering system are available in many colors. \$10.00 + S&H

Violets From the Starrs

2602 Graupera St.

Pensacola, FL 32507

850-456-2662

e-mail: GBStarr@juno.com



Linda's Heavenly Accents

P.O. Box 690

Cordova, NC 28330-0690

(910) 895-8200 stalion@infoave.net

New List for 1998 ready!

Over 1000 + Varieties

Including Kents, Hortense, Lyons, Robs,

Elkins, Rebel Series, Apache & Rodeos, Aca's,

Large Collection of Wranglers, and

Irene Fredette. Favorites from, Champion, Granger,

Boone Ness, Suncoast Series, and many more.

List \$1.00 refundable with order.

25 our choice, new and old \$12.50 labeled and PP

Join the company of many satisfied customers!

New releases Leaves \$1.00, Favorites .75 ea.

USA, Mail order only at this time.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00

Check payable to Genelle Armstrong

1313 Gardenia Drive

Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00

Evergreen Violets

P. O. Box 49534

Blaine, MN 55449



Alannah's African Violets

"Mail order specialists for award-winning African Violets"

Ten new releases for 1998 from Canada's premier hybridizer - Denis Croteau

Allaance, Astral, Coeur Corail, Coeur Valliant, Coraline, Dora Picard, Guest, Impresario, Italian Spice, Pacemaker

Our Twenty most requested varietles of '97

Angel Choir, Aprapahoe, Blue Happenings, Ceremonial Dance, Chantilly Lace, Emerald Love, Fredette's Risen Star, Genetic Carmine, Golden Glow, Happy Hillbilly, Lillian's Sparkler, Marmalade, Melody Kimi, Picasso, Red-Headed Kate, Sansoucy's Coco, Sybil, Tula, Vampire's Kiss, Wrangler's Honkey Tonk

Alannah's Personal Favorites

Balladin, Caralil's Dirty Dancing, Elise, Lambert Closse, Lela Marie, Painted Sunrise, Pastel Summer, Peach Glow, Tomorrow's Indigo, Vintage Wine

**Plants \$3.50 each & fresh-cut leaves \$1.25 each / plus S&H \$10.00 in America
(Canadian & overseas customers please enquire about shipping costs)**

Visit us on the InterNet -

<http://www.netshop.net/~grndfrks/grndfrks/business/alannahs/alannahs.html>

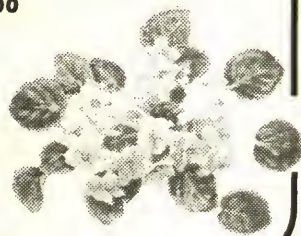
**Send for our 1998 Catalogue (ready late January) listing hundreds of outstanding
varietles from hybridizers across America & Canada - only \$2.00**

Box 2
Danville WA.
USA, 99121

**Look for our new selection of Streptocarpus, Episcia,
Columnea & Achimenes**

RR 1, Site 640,
Grand Forks, B.C.
Canada V0H 1H0

**We also carry over 400 varietles of geraniums
Scented, Fancy Leaf, Rosebud, Miniature & Dwarf**



Phone: (250) 442-2552 Fax: (250) 442-0288

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES INC

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality hybrids since 1954



Visit our web site at
www.lyndonlyon.com

Our 1998 COLOR CATALOG
introducing our newest creations

featuring
Monthly specials!

will be ready for mailing
approximately
March 1st

To receive your copy, please send
\$3.00 U.S./\$5.00 International

African Violets • Gesneriads • Orchids • Exotic Houseplants • Hanging Baskets

African Violets

Columneas Streptocarpus
Aeschynanthus Sinningias
Codonanthus Kohlerias
Episcias and more!



PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive *Chatter*, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturing the Miniatures")



A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**

Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

AV Enterprises Press
P.O. Box 6778-A
Oxnard, CA 93030

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to
The Gloxinian magazine (six issues) plus a
copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687



Air Express 5 pack: \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holikamp.
The Mini-Well™ reservoirs are included along with
fertilizer. These minis are easy to grow!

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



NURSERY CO., INC.
ESTABLISHED 1843

1-800-446-7723

Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Light tubes, fertilizers, violet pots
including the Dandy Pot® plus
orchids, hibiscus, plumerias,
bromeliads, and supplies.

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Self-Watering

27 unique designs available • Artfully Handpainted
Catalog \$1 Refundable • All pots crafted in USA

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P.O. Box 38
(415) 728-7683

AFRICAN VIOLET SELF-WATERING POTS

DESIGNED BY MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

15 UNIQUE DESIGNS, 3 INDIVIDUAL SIZES, SOUTHWESTERN, COUNTRY,
AND CREATIVE STYLES, HANDCRAFTED AND HANDPAINTED MADE IN USA
CATALOG \$2 (REFUNDABLE WITH ORDERS OF \$25.00)

OR VISIT US ON THE WWW AT <http://www.13.pair.com/mudhole>

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS
767 N. CALLE ROLPH
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

VISA, MC, AMEX
ACCEPTED

PHONE (888) 549-8149
FAX (760) 323-9808

Over 30 varieties

EPISCIAS ONLY

send for a free price list
512-467-7553

Cuttings available

6 starter plants my choice
\$15.00 + \$5.00 postage & packing

Toni's Home Nursery
1112 Taulbee Lane
Austin, Texas 78757

Our Customers say it best...

In a recent letter from Mrs. Ramona Donnell, Awards
Chairman for the Missouri Valley AVC she said,

"... I used your fertilizer exclusively on the 7 plants
that I took to show and I received 7 Blue Ribbons, 6
Best in Class and 1 Judges Special Award. I also won
best other gesneriad, Best Mini and 2nd Best Mini in
show. After the awards were announced, everyone
was most interested in how I had used Dyna-Gro.

In the past I have grown plants that won blue
ribbons but not the quality of these plants.

...I can say with some conviction that you have
gained some converts."

DYNA-GRO™

THE NUTRITION SOLUTION®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited
habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rain-
forests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the
Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

*Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 31 E. 12th Street, Suite 2D •
New York, NY 10003*

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers,
Baby Begonias, and various
gesneriads list available,
January 1997, \$2.00,
refundable with 1st order



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #D 2889.001



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pots
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768

VIOLETS ETC., INC.

Bonnie Schmidkofer 1011 Wood Ave.
813-468-9457 Clearwater, FL 33755

**African Violet Leaves
Gesneriad Cuttings**

**Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.**

Open by Appointment



OVER 800 VARIETIES

List, \$1.50. Refundable

1998 List available NOW!

LEAVES AND SOIL MIX ONLY

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

Allegro PLANT TONIC

"ALLEGRO IS BACK"

**ATTENTION PLANT SOCIETIES
SELL "ALLEGRO" MAKE MONEY**

Fredette's "Allegro" is now available to
Violet vendors, clubs and/or individuals.

Minimum purchase is one case of 12,
4 oz. bottles to sell at your next show or
to your customers. Dealers are encouraged
to write for wholesale pricing.

NEW LARGE 12 oz. bottle NOW AVAILABLE

Marge Fargeot, 235 Alps Road
Branford, CT 06405
Phone: (203) 488-8008



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	4.95	17.95
10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	7.95	24.95
10 Species	7.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	7.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	7.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Columnea	7.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	7.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping
\$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first
10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on
assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks
payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050.
Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets>
phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	9"	6.40
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	10"	7.30
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	11"	10.25
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00	12"	11.75
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 13.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00	

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00

**WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING**

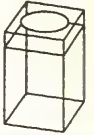
Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00

**LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries**

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite,	1 gal.	\$2.00
vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but	1 gal.	\$2.00
contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
		4 oz./\$7.00

PETERS FERTILIZER

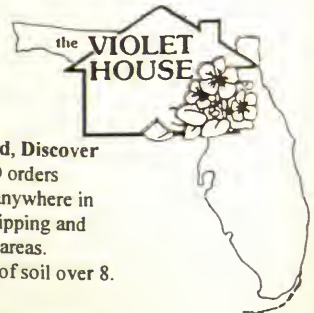
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	1 lb.	\$6.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	8 oz.	\$5.50
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
	Concentrate	8 oz. \$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

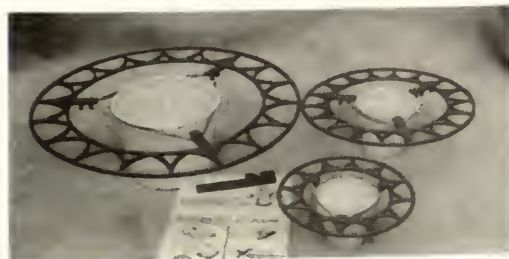
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SANDY AND SHIRLEY SANDERS! NEW VARIETIES FROM SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS

- HOBBS-GREGG** DEAN'S BASHFUL - Double ruffled white blossom with hot pink radiating from center; variegated red backed, scalloped, lightly quilted foliage. SM
- PITTMAN** PEPPY BLUE - Beautiful double blossoms of blue with a geneva edge over pretty dark shiny symmetrical foliage. SM
- HANCOCK** BUCKEYE BALLERINA - Large double pink lavender, ruffled/frilled blossoms with splashes of purple. Medium green and cream variegated foliage. Standard
- WILLIAMS** SUNCOAST BLUE CRANBERRY - Large blue blossom with red overlays and a deeper red center that shimmers above medium green foliage. Standard
- NESS** ORANGE PEKOE - Coral, almost orange semi to double ruffled pansy. Dark green, pink and cream variegated scalloped, red reverse foliage. Standard
- BROWNLIE** ACA'S GEORGENE - Semidouble light pink pansy with red glittered edge. Variegated dark green and cream foliage. SM
- STORK** SHATTERED GLASS - Semidouble dark pink pansy blossom with dark blue fantasy markings glow above dark green, plain foliage. Standard
- ROB'S NEW 1998 VARIETIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN LEAVES ONLY UNTIL MAY. AT THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE PLANTS AVAILABLE.**

Trailers!! - A sampling: Pat Harris' Tiger tr. and First Robin. Darryl Hoover's White Magic tr. Two trailer's with girl foliage and lovely blooms from Ron Brenton. Space does not allow us to give descriptions of the lovely new varieties that we have available from Lambert, Sorano, Decelles, Croteau and others. We also will have some older varieties that are always popular plus what we feel are the best of J. C. Munk's Apache and Rodeos. **You will find these and many others listed in our new catalog - \$1.00.** Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants per order. Shipping is \$7.00. Over 6 will be 40 cents each.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases-24 \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases-24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

We will begin shipping March 1 in states where it is warm enough to ship. Other states when weather permits. Please include your phone number with your order as we notify customers of their shipping date. Make checks payable to Shirley Sanders. Our address: 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221. Telephone number 210-923-1093. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.



LEAF SUPPORT RINGS

Give your violets a spruced up look. Keep the leaves from touching and being damaged by rough pot edges. Excellent for training show plants to perfect symmetry. Made of green plastic. Each comes with a rubber band which is what holds the ring onto the pot. Slides on from the bottom of the pot. Instructions included. Three sizes:

6" Ring - great for minis and young standards. Fits up to 3" pots. \$1.19 each; or \$12.89 per dozen; or \$23.19 per 25.

9" Ring - fits 3" to 5" pots. This is the most popular size. \$1.29 each; or \$13.29 per dozen; or \$24.29 per 25.

13" Ring - fits 5" to 8" pots. \$1.49 each; or \$15.89 per dozen; or \$28.69 per 25. Extra rubber bands (specify which ring size) \$.75 per dozen. **SHIPPING COSTS:** Orders for less than \$10; add \$5.50; Orders for more than \$10 add \$6.50. **WE SHIP by UPS**

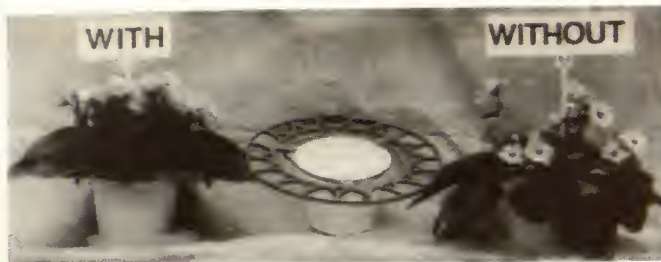
(Orders shipped outside the U.S. will be mailed at actual cost.)

A free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list will be enclosed with each order. Colorado shipments please add 3% tax. We also have a complete line of growing supplies, lighted plant stands, soils, fertilizers, assorted pots, wicking trays, insecticides, books, seed and more AND leaves or starter plants of over 120 different violets - including minis, standards and gesneriads. Lots of new varieties for this year plus many classics. In business since 1969. Closed Sundays and Tuesdays.

Checks, MASTERCARD, VISA and DISCOVER accepted. Phone (303) 761-1770 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mountain Time Mondays and Wednesdays thru Saturdays FAX 303-762-1808

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE

3147 South Broadway - Dept. AV
Englewood, Colorado 80110





CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10,

also CHIMERAS. Latest releases from MARIE BURNS, DATES, BARBARA ELKIN, BILL FOSTER, LYNNONS, D. HARRINGTON, KENT STORK, WRANGLERS and much more.

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00. Gifts, cards, and notes available.

NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

email violets@cape.com - Web page www.cape.com/~violets

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants. Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each; 3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz.	8 oz.
5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
		1.60	3.00
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	4 oz	12 oz
		1.25	3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz.	16 oz.
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone		1.25	3.00
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	2 lbs./\$1.75	
	No. 6 Medium	20 oz.	40 oz.
		1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		1.75	5.00
		432 cu. inches	\$3.75
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide \$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths			

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

SCHULTZ

Kills Bugs On Contact!



Made with botanical pyrethrins from chrysanthemum flowers

Look for Schultz plant care products
in leading floral and garden departments.



Acree Creations

Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). Mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label below. Orders will be submitted every time 30 orders are acquired.



R

ozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

The 1998 Releases from
Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith • Sandra Williams

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses

(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1998 Catalog

Available Feb. 15th or before

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738

Phone: 903-595-5137
Fax: 903-593-7956

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO!
STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

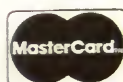
MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors
growing pots. oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY
Florida Registration number: 47219602



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Bluebird Greenhouses

Apex, NC

At the Peak of Violetry



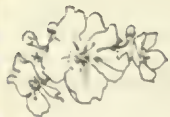
Send \$1 for catalog. Open 9-12 weekdays.

4821 Jessie Drive

Apex North Carolina 27502

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie @ ibm.net

<http://RTPnet.org/~avsa/bbhome.htm>



HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards
Lots of Oldies Plus New Varieties
Fresh Cut Leaves - Starter Plants
State Inspected and Certified*

1998 List \$1.50

Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1998

Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett

HCR 2, Box 381

Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew

Phyton[®]
27

BACTERICIDE & FUNGICIDE

Effective • Invisible • Systemic



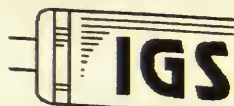
For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Oldies and New Varieties by leading hybridizers.
Starter plants will be \$2.00 ea. Leaves \$1.25 ea. List \$1.
U.S. Shipping Only

SONJA'S VIOLETS

15980 W. Warden Road, Omaha, Arkansas 72662



P.O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$34.67 12 = \$59.16 24 = \$112.35

G4-SD2 \$549.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE 32 PAGE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L x 12D



The "Common Sense" Greenhouse

A beautiful mini-greenhouse!

As much growing room as a 6-foot structural greenhouse, at a fraction of the cost!

The Gardener's Greenhouse is so practical and functional, home gardeners and hobby growers call it the "common sense" greenhouse. There's plenty of room for all your plants, yet it's not so big that it "takes over" your yard. See why our owners say "Your greenhouse is the best"!



Four sliding glass doors on each side put every plant within easy reach! Work with your plants from the outside in! There's no wasted space. And, you can grow plants in the ground, inside your greenhouse, using it as a "high-rise" cold frame!

TOP-QUALITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- Strong tempered glass allows optimum sunlight
- Maintenance-free aluminum frame
- Room for up to 8 shelves
- Easy, adjustable ventilation for heat control
- Doors open from all sides
- Built-in misting system
- Lifetime warranty

60-DAY HOME TRIAL

Experience the fun, satisfaction and rewards of greenhouse gardening. Use the Gardener's Greenhouse for two full months and if you aren't absolutely delighted you can send it back. Get the information about the 60-day home trial with your free color booklet!



"... everyone was impressed with the quality of manufacture, and with the design which allows access all around the house through the sliding glass panels ... It does not need a specially prepared base ... will make greenhouse growing accessible to a whole new range of gardeners."

Garden News

Call Today for a FREE Color Booklet!

This 8½" x 11" booklet is full of beautiful color photographs and gardening ideas for your very own mini-greenhouse. **PLUS** get a handy question and answer fact sheet with everything you want to know about the Gardener's Greenhouse.



CALL 1-800-429-5005

or mail the coupon below.

☐ **YES!** Send me the FREE color booklet about the Gardener's Greenhouse plus the information about the 60-day home trial!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

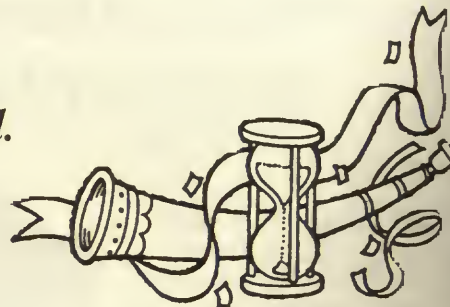
State _____ Zip _____

Gardener's Greenhouse™
A PBM GROUP PRODUCT

Dept. 24018GH

160 Koser Road
Lititz, PA 17543

Time To Check Your Violet Needs, New Catalogs Available, Take The Lead. Start The Year With Violets Bright, Rewards Result In Sheer Delight.



AFRICAN VIOLET ACCESSORIES SHIPPED PROMPTLY THE YEAR ROUND BY UPS

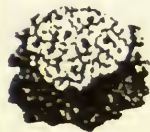
"AFRICAN VIOLETS GIFTS FROM NATURE"

by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece. \$45.00 ppd.



Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets



"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included. \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed. Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements. An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success. \$16.95 ppd

TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS ... TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... \$65.95 ppd

MODEL TT240WS ... TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 48" length ... \$75.95 ppd



4-TRAY LITE STAND ... Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing they are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid. 3" wheels included.

4-Tray Lite Stand ... Aluminum finish ... \$319.00 ppd.
4-Tray Lite Stand ... Brown finish ... \$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple-to-use wick watering system, easy-to-fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning.

Dandy Pot ... 4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir \$5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.



PICK OF THE LITTER ... NEW ITEM ... hy popular request - a litter of 5 stuffed cats in attractive violet motif fabric with satin violet-colored ribbon collar and violet felt eyes. Ranging from 9" to 4 1/2" tall ... SPECIAL litter of 5 cats \$12.95 ppd

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag	Zone 0-1-2	\$12.95 ppd
12 Quart Poly Bag	Zone 3-4-5	\$13.95 ppd
12 Quart Poly Bag	Zone 6-7-8-9	\$14.95 ppd

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

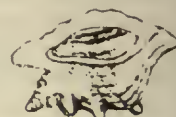
HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT

STYLE CSW-1	
Height	4 - 1/2" overall
Width	7" overall
Pot Size	For 3" or 4" pots
Price	\$14.95 ppd
STYLE CSW-2	
Height	3 - 1/4" overall
Width	5 - 1/2" overall
Pot Size	For 2 - 1/4" or 3" pots
Price	\$10.95 ppd
STYLE CSW-MINI (for miniature & semiminatures)	
Height	3 - 1/4" overall
Width	4 - 3/4" overall
Pot Size	Minis
Price	\$8.95 ppd
STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini) NEW - especially for Microminis	
Height	2 - 1/4"
Width	3 - 1/2" overall

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter. 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white ... \$14.95 ppd



Ceramic African Violet Pot - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets ... \$5.95 with any order.

WINDOW PLANTERS

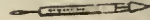
3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24".

WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" \$17.95 ppd
WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" \$22.95 ppd

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... \$3.49 each ppd.

"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... \$4.95 each ppd.
SPECIAL: One of each \$7.95 ppd.

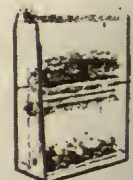
SUCKER PLUCKER



LEAF DUSTER



G22A ... Compact Lite Stand - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS. \$175.00 ppd



We accept credit card orders ... Visa or MasterCard
Phone 1-215-947-0144 FAX 1-215-947-2163

Tinari
GREENHOUSES

Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntington Valley, PA 19006

Dept. AV
Commercial Member
AVS of America, Inc.
Send \$1.00 for catalog

African Violet

3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April 1998

Volume 51

Number 2



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntingdon Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave. Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Email 06JLSmith@BSU.edu

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April

Volume 51

Number 2

CONTENTS

FEATURES

ATTENTION: International Members	4	Chimeras - W.S. Marchant	34
Violets & Romance - Kyle Coleman	11	Electronic Violets for Every Computer - Ellen W. Beckerman	39
Growing A Show Plant - Doris Brownlie	12	Spring Chores - Sue Hodges	40
ATTENTION: Judges Handbook	17	Some Thoughts on Seed - John Beaulieu	41
The Name of the Game is the Name - David Buttram . . .	18	Regional Reviews - Pat Richards	42
Albuquerque Invitation	20	Violets Bloom For Maggie - Jean McCain	46
Hide & Seek With a Reservoir - Maxine Geiss	20	What's New on the Internet - Wayne Donaho	51
Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets - Leta Moser & Dr. Jeff Smith	26	Long Division For African Violets, Not Arithmetic - Ruth Coulson	52
School Partnerships - Ella Broome & Barbara Marsh . . .	28		
Planting by Moon Signs	30		

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2	Showcase.	32
Officers & Staff.	2	Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	35
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells	3	Showcase.	36
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4	Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	38
In Memory	5	Coming Events.	48
Coming Events Form	5	Advertising Guidelines - Judith Carter	52
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	6	Membership Application	55
Tally Time - Anna Jean Landgren	8		
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondan	10		
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	13		
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	16		
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky	22		
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	24		
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	24		
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton . . .	24		
Registration Report - Iris Keating	31		

CONVENTION

What To Wear in Sacramento (Discover CA Casual)	5
Many Thanks for Convention Awards	17
Discover California!	21
Special Meal Requests	21
Meal Function Seating	21
Affiliate Meeting	23
Thank You! Saturday Luncheon Auction	45
Convention Award Correction.	45
Convention Questions?	47

COVER

MISSOURI BOTANICAL^{Bottom}

Knight Magic

APR 03 2000 mini

GARDEN LIBRARY Top L

Windsome

mini

Top R

Teen Thunder

semi

1997 Blue Ribbon Winners

from the Display Table of

The Mini Mansion

Hector Becerra

Hybridizer: H. Pittman

Photo Credit: Gus Francisco



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 60
AGGS 61
Alannah's AV's 54
American Orchid Society 61
AV Enterprises Press 64
AVS of Canada 61
AVSA Address Labels 54

B

Bayou Violets 61
Belisle's Violet House 61
Bluebird Greenhouses 64

C

Cape Cod
Violetry. Inside back Cover
Cryptanthus Society 61

D

Dandy Enterprises 57
Dyna Gro 63

E

Evergreen Violets 61

F

Florals of Fredericks 60

G

Gardener's Greenhouse 57

H

Hattie Baggett's
African Violets 57
Herbal Garden Ceramics 63
Hobby Greenhouse 63

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 60

L

Lainey Ceramics 59
Linda's Heavenly Accents 60
Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses . . . 56

M

Mighty Minis 54
Mudhole Productions 64

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Patch 59
Pat's Pets 64

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 62
Rozell Nursery 59

S

Shirley's House of Violets 56
Sonja's AV's 57

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 63
Teas Nursery 63
Toni's Home Nursery 61
Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover
Travis' Violets 55

V

Violets by Appointment 59
Violets, Etc. 64
Violet House 58
Violet Showcase 55
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses . . 60

W

Jim Wildman 57



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: jwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

While many of our members are still experiencing the effects of cold winter weather, many of us are starting to have an occasional glimpse of spring. With the coming of spring, we will have many opportunities to participate in one or more of our affiliate shows. If you are not able to participate as an exhibitor, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend shows in your part of the country. Be sure to check the most recent listing of coming events in this issue or on the AVSA web site to locate shows and sales close to you.

The last few months have been quite busy for your AVSA Board members and staff. As I reported in January, the new computer software was installed at the AVSA Office in December. Staff members Jenny Daugereau and Tammi Gotcher have learned the new system quickly and are finding many ways to take advantage of the expanded capabilities of this system as they strive to serve you. John Carter, Chairman of the Technology Committee, continues to spend countless hours assisting with this ongoing project. John has made many trips to Beaumont to work with Jenny and Tammi. John deserves an Olympic gold medal for his efforts.

The Internet Committee has also been extremely busy preparing the new AVSA web site for its debut. By the time you receive this, the new web site should be online. The new site includes much more information and many new features. Be sure to read Wayne Donaho's article in this issue to learn more about this new service. Then, boot up the computer and sign on to explore the new site for yourself. The new web site will be updated frequently, so you will want to return frequently to see what's new. Wayne is another one of our volunteers who deserves an Olympic gold medal for his dedication to this project.

During the last few months, we have received numerous requests for information about AVSA from the web site. We expect this to increase with the debut of the new web site. In addition, email to the AVSA Office has included many requests for information about local clubs and about specific growing questions. Several of those who requested information or a free issue of the magazine were contacted by a member of the Board of Directors or referred to a local affiliate for additional assistance. In order for our office staff to make referrals more quickly, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for contact persons for each affiliate club. You can provide this information on the web site, or by sending e-mail to the AVSA office at avsa@avsa.org.

The Shows and Judges Committee has completed updating of the *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. The printer is now making all of the changes. We hope to have the new handbook available at the convention in Sacramento.

The deadline to receive the Early Bird Discount on your Convention Registration is March 19. If you have not completed your registration, find your January issue of the magazine with the purple pages in the middle, fill out the registration form on page A-13, and get it in the mail today. Be sure to sign up for some of the tours and enjoy the sites and scenery of northern California. With the combination of activities — exciting tours, informative presentations, a tempting auction, a beautiful show — and AVSA friends from around the world, this should be an outstanding convention that you won't want to miss. I hope to see you in Sacramento.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • *email* rrumsey@earthlink.net

On the protective white cover this month is an additional Convention Registration Form. Be sure to register soon for our April convention in Sacramento! I am looking forward to seeing you as you purchase items from the AVSA Sales Table. Remember that this year we'll have the new Judge's Handbook available. At Convention Registration, be sure to introduce yourselves to **Jenny Daugereau**, who most of you have spoken with when you've called the AVSA Office. This will be Jenny's first convention, and I know how exciting that experience can be!

Although I didn't have room for more convention information in this issue, I do have information on golf courses, antiques and restaurants in the Sacramento, CA area. If you'd like a copy of any of these, send me a SASE, or your fax number, and I'll get it right out to you.

I was saddened by the death of my friend, **Alma Wright**, in January. Alma was a Past President of AVSA, as well as the first Editor of this magazine. Through her generosity I was able to acquire a scanner for my office, which helps tremendously in doing my job. I very much

enjoyed speaking with Alma, and found her (at 88) a vibrant and informative connection with the early days of AVSA. At the time of her death, Alma was working on an article for the AVM.

A big thanks goes out to the local members of the **AVS of Beaumont, TX**, who have graciously returned to care for the African violet plants in the AVSA office. We missed them all and are grateful for the time they donate to our violets.

In this issue, you'll enjoy a new feature that our contributor and "Thinking Small" columnist, **Pat Richards**, has compiled, "Regional Reviews", page 42. Pat wrote to many notable growers, and convinced them to reveal their secrets for success. This is the first installment; the second will appear in the May/June issue. As we all know, different methods are used by just about every grower, with climate and location making a difference. Through these reviews we are able to learn some of the growing methods from people all over the world. Hopefully, Pat will continue this feature in years to come.

Look through the Souvenir Book
for changes in the
Convention Schedule.

Attention: International Members

Just as this issue was going to press, we have learned that many of our International Members did not receive their Nov/Dec 1997 and Jan/Feb 1998 magazines. All members who may have been affected are being contacted by the AVSA office. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding and patience.

In Memory



PEGGY STAAT

Mrs. Charles (Peggy) Staat passed away in November, 1997. A member of AVSA since 1961, Peggy was a Life Member, receiving the One Year Membership Award in 1976 and the Continued Service Award in 1983. Peggy served AVSA as a member of the Board of Directors, 1989 - 1992, and on the Membership and Promotion Committee from 1980 - 1985.

She helped organize the Albuquerque AVC, New Mexico, in June, 1968, and served three times as President. An AVSA Judge, Peggy was named Master Emeritus. Her dedication to growing and showing African violets was an inspiration to all.



HELEN A. GEISLER

The Milwaukee AVS and the Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs said farewell to Helen A. Geisler in December, 1997. Helen was a dedicated AVSA member, AVSA Judge and Milwaukee Convention Chairman in 1983. She served the Milwaukee AVS as President three times, was a Past President of the WI Judges Council, served as AVSA Representative for both groups and was Editor of the WI Council News. It was a privilege to share her dedication and love of African violets.

Discover California Casual!!

When you read this, our California daffodils will have been blooming for two weeks! Poets say that April in Paris is weather from the gods. In Sacramento, we're told our weather is from El Nino this year. Usually April brings highs of 71 and lows of 46, with less than an inch of rain. El Nino is new to us, too, so you never know what "the boy" has in store for us! Apart from the rain, however, we haven't experienced any "headline" weather.

Spring in the Sacramento Valley is glorious, even when it rains. Bring an umbrella and discover the "layered look" of California casual. Jackets, slacks and sweaters allow for adapting to unpredictable weather conditions. If you're taking tours, the Sierras and San Francisco are generally 10-20 degrees cooler than Sacramento.

Our convention functions emphasize fun, so you can leave the white gloves at home! Enjoy California casual and remember that traditionally April showers bring May flowers! In Sacramento, our flowers are in bloom already!



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement.

Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on a regular size (8 1/2" x 11") piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

month and date(s) state

club name and event

location (including place and address, city, state)

dates and times

name and phone number for more information

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

This month I turn my column over to guest columnist Janice Bruns of Illinois. While I've never seen Jan's plants, her reputation among growers in Illinois is admirable. They speak of perfectly symmetrical violets in full bloom, sales plants included! She is actively involved in local, state and regional violet organizations and also runs a small commercial business, Violets ... by Jan.

Perhaps the most inspirational thing about Jan is that 33 years ago she was in an accident which left her in a wheelchair. It is a tribute to Jan that she remains dedicated to violets and accomplishes so much. I must mention her devoted husband, Joe, who is so supportive of her efforts! Thanks to both of you for sharing your talents!

In the May issue we'll discuss designing with the small ones. Take care!

In growing miniature and semiminature African violets there are certain things that I do that work well for me — they may not work well for you — and then there are certain things that work well for *everyone*. First, let's cover the second of those two.

Now, I'm not talking about just growing African violets; almost anyone can do that. I'm talking about growing top-quality show plants. I think there are three factors, which are necessary for you to produce the best specimens you can grow: a good variety, consistency in your growing conditions, and a bit of your time.

Start out with a good variety. I'm excited about the beautiful blossoms that the hybridizers are giving us today, but when I look at a plant what *really* impresses me is the foliage. I love to see those flat-lying leaves, overlapping and distributed symmetrically. And guess what: so do the judges! Don't get me wrong — you need a plant that produces *abundant* blossoms, but while beautiful flowers might tend to sway a judge, the only thing that counts when point-scoring is that it is blooming true to its description. Go for the foliage first. Here symmetry is most important, and that includes leaves that overlap so that you can't see any spaces between them when viewed from the top. Then look for quantity of bloom. Here a good guideline to use is the number of blooms per stalk — try for at least six, but that's negotiable if the blossoms are large. Once

you have a plant with symmetry and floriferousness, then you can look for the "pretty" plant.

After you choose your prospective show plants, the most important thing in growing them is to provide them with the soil, light, watering method, fertilizer, etc. that works best under *your* growing conditions. But whatever you do, make sure it is *consistent*. Any changes will show up in the mature plant as culture breaks, where one or more rows of leaves will appear different from other rows, either in color, size, or growth pattern.

Some growers like to "rotate" their fertilizers, feeling that any one fertilizer doesn't provide everything the plant needs. A better idea might be to mix the fertilizers together and use the mixture consistently. For example, if you use fertilizer A for three weeks, then switch to fertilizer B for a week, instead mix 3 parts of fertilizer A with one part of B, and use this mixture all the time.

You should let a young plant bloom once (to make sure it is blooming true to its description) then disbud it and keep it disbudded until show time. When a plant produces bloom, less energy goes into foliage growth, so each time you let it bloom you will see a distinct gap between two rows of leaves.

Most varieties will grow differently under different temperature and light conditions. With many variegated varieties the amount and color of variegation will vary with

the temperature. So it's important to keep your plant room temperature as consistent as possible. An air conditioner would be ideal, especially if you live in a warmer climate.

The third factor that I mentioned is time. It's one of those things that we don't seem to have enough of, but if you want to produce a really nice show plant you will need to make a commitment. Neglecting African violets for any length of time will almost surely lead to problems. You should have each plant in your hands at least once a week — disbudding it, grooming it, and checking it for problems that you can correct before they get out of hand. And just before the show, spend extra time grooming the plant. It's such a shame to lose points for a dirty plant, which is something that can so easily be avoided.

Now let me tell you a little about the way that I grow my plants. First, you should be aware of how my growing techniques evolved. I have a small commercial business, where I sell to the average home grower. Most of them water their African violets individually from the top or bottom. Consequently I don't use a soilless mix. It would dry out too quickly for them, especially with the minis in their small pots. My soil mixture contains real "dirt" and it's a bit heavier than that of most growers. My formula is four parts Hyponex® Professional Potting Soil, one part perlite, one part vermiculite, and one part Sakrete® All-Purpose Sand. I pasteurize the soil before mixing it with the other ingredients.

You might ask how I can use such a heavy mixture with a constant-watering method. The answer is that I don't — I water each plant individually from the top with a watering wand. This is one case where I vary from what I have just said. A constant-watering method such as wick watering will provide more even and consistent moisture, but it doesn't work with my soil mix. Besides, it forces me to give each plant more individual attention, and that certainly can't hurt.

I use Sylvania Gro-Lux® Wide Spectrum tubes in my light fixtures. Some growers don't use them because they cost too much. I use them because they save me money. I can burn the lights two fewer hours per day than I can with most other tubes, and they last two to three times as long, so in the long run they are actually less expensive.

Over the past year I have switched to Dyna-Gro® fertilizer. My previous fertilizer had changed formulation to add a greater percentage of urea nitrogen, which was becoming evident in a paler, duller leaf color. Shortly after switching to Dyna-Gro® Growth formula (7-9-5) I saw a dramatic difference. But I also began to see some evidence of too much nitrogen — tighter centers, colors a little *too* deep, and sparser bloom. At this time I am using a 50-50 mixture of the Growth formula (7-9-5) and the Dyna-Gro® Bloom formula (3-12-6), which results in a formula of approximately 5-10-5. I am *very* pleased with the results

so far.

I grow all of my plants in 2 1/4" pots. I find it easier to keep semiminiatures within their proper size range by keeping them in smaller pots. I like to use Kord® pots because they have rolled rims.

I set aside a number of plants for a show and sale, and treat each of them as a potential show plant. They are kept disbudded until five or six weeks before the show (depending on the time of year). I switch to Dyna-Gro® Bloom formula fertilizer two weeks before I stop disbudding, and return to my regular fertilizer one week after I stop disbudding. At about this time I start deciding which ones I might show and place them on rings. However, I often change my mind and wind up selling a show plant and/or choosing a show plant from my "sale" plants.

Pest prevention is an important aspect of growing for me. Consequently I rarely need to deal with them. After getting soil mealy bugs 18 years ago, I make it a policy to not allow any new plants in my collection — I just take leaves. As a result, since then I have had to deal with only two cases of thrips and one of cyclamen mites. When I get a new plant, I strip the leaves and soak them in a 1:10 bleach/water solution. After rinsing the leaf under running water, I blot it dry and re-cut the end of the petiole. (It tends to get destroyed from the bleach solution.) I used to do the bleach treatment on crowns taken from chimeras, but that's where I got the cyclamen mites. So, since then I avoid getting any new chimeras. I don't know what I'll do if I find one that I just *have* to have.

My very favorite hybridizer is Hortense Pittman. I order each of her new mini and semimini varieties every year. Most of her varieties grow with a naturally perfect symmetry. Because they have small leaves and proportional flowers, you wouldn't be able to tell them apart from a standard just by looking at a photograph. Some of my favorite Hortense's Honeys are 'Lavender Rage', 'Pat Champagne', 'Sassy Shirley', 'Spring Peach', 'Teen Glow', and 'Teen Surprise' (my all-time favorite). I don't want to leave out the other hybridizers, as I have many favorites from Rob, Sorano, Ness, and others, but Hortense's plants do consistently well for me.

As you have been reminded many times, do what works best for *you*. If what you are doing now gives you the results you want, stick with it. If you have a problem area, experiment with different methods until you find the one that works. There are so many nice varieties out there. Grow the ones that do well for you, and get rid of the others — don't waste your time or shelf space on them. Most of all, do what makes you happy. After all, this is supposed to be fun!

Janice Bruns

Tally Time 1997

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 1997. This year it is based on 109 reports.

Show chairs, please note, the names of winning 1998 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted.

STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Regist. No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
30	7	3	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	13	7
17	2	3	Party Print M. Burns #7553	9	3
13	2	1	Suncoast Paisley Print S. Williams #7240	8	2
12	1	1	Lela Marie I. Lineberg #5668	7	3
12	1	0	Ode to Beauty Cox/B. Johnson #7677	10	1

SEMIMINIATURES

32	4	1	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	19	8
27	1	1	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	20	5
21	0	4	Precious Pink H. Pittman #6025	11	6
13	0	1	Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	10	2
13	1	1	Pat Champagne H. Pittman #7084	7	4

MINIATURES

9	0	0	Mickey Mouse H. Inpijn	0	9
8	0	1	Spring Peach H. Pittman #8413	3	4

TRAILERS

13	2	0	Rob's Sticky Wicket R. Robinson #6467	5	6
12	1	1	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	2	8
12	2	0	Milky Way Trail J. Stahl #7169	1	9

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

16	2	0	<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> S 10b	1	13
12	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	1	11
11	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	0	10

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	I	II	III	IV	V
STANDARDS						
Picasso	30	8	5	6	9	2
Party Print	17	0	4	1	9	3
Suncoast Paisley Print	13	6	1	6	0	0
Lela Marie	12	0	1	6	3	2
Ode to Beauty	12	1	3	7	0	1
SEMIMINIATURES						
Ness' Crinkle Blue	32	6	10	8	3	5
Irish Flirt	27	4	5	2	6	10
Precious Pink	21	6	2	3	5	5
Ness' Satin Rose	13	1	4	1	4	3
Pat Champagne	13	4	6	1	1	1
MINIATURES						
Mickey Mouse	9	3	2	2	1	1
Spring Peach	8	0	2	0	3	3
TRAILERS						
Rob's Sticky Wicket	13	3	6	0	3	1
Rob's Boolaroo	12	5	4	1	2	0
Milky Way Trail	12	2	0	1	3	6
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES						
<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i>	16	0	3	7	6	0
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	12	3	4	1	2	2
<i>Saintpaulia velutina</i>	11	0	4	4	0	3
NUMBER OF WINNERS	283	52	66	57	60	48
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED	109	17	27	25	22	18

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Alberta-2, California-13, Colorado-1 and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-3, Indiana-2, Iowa-3, Minnesota-3, Missouri-5, Ohio-3, Ontario-4 and Wisconsin-4; #III - Connecticut-3, Delaware-1, New Jersey-4, New York-10, Nova Scotia-1, Maine-1, Maryland-1, Pennsylvania-2 and Quebec-2; - #IV - Arkansas-1, Kansas-2, Louisiana-5, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-13; #V - Alabama-3, Florida-7, Georgia-2, Tennessee-3 and Virginia-3. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 5 or more awards within an area were: #I Brazos Belle (5); #II Harbor Blue (5) Ness' Blue Velvet (6) Rob's Boondoggle (6) Rob's Lilli Pilli (5) Rob's Scooter (5), and Rob's Toorooka (5); #III - Bud's Melanie (6) Little Pro (6) Phantom Flash (5), and Pixie Blue (5); #IV Dean's Sonata (6) Shades of Autumn (5) Shy Blue (6) Teen Thunder (5), and Tomahawk (6); #V Makin' Romance (5) and Wood Trail (5).

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Aca's Canadian Wonder, Devil Blues, **Nancy Price**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Chief; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars', **Catherine Thompson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Boo Hoo, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Shirley Nelson**. Best Design, **Jan Blanchard**.

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Tomahawk, Lavender Spray, **Oscar Faoro**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Blackfoot, Shy Blue, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Bow; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeani Hatfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddlesticks, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Copper Cat; Best Semiminiature, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus porphyrostachys*, **Jackie Kenny**. Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey, **Leona Faora**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

GREEN THUMB AVS OF FAYETTEVILLE, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Something Special, Big Charlie, **Mary Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Satin Rose, Little Katherine; Best in Show/Best Trailer, Pink Star Lou, **Charlotte Jenkins**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ruby Pope**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Dawn Sparks**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Johnson**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, First Child, Brazos Stormy Skies; Best Standard: Pink Confession,

Richard Nicholas. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: You Old Smoothie, This Bud's Mine, Lela Marie, **Marilyn Hall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Amethyst, Rob's Tippy Toe; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito, **Patricia Tillman**. Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Design, **Dolores Gibbs**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Onalee McEwen**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Zebrina' Hybrid, **Dale Martens**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Liggett**.

MID AMERICA AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Texas Teen; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Persian Lace, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Freda Brooks**. Best In Show/Best Miniature: Hortense's Space Dust; Best Standard: Velvet Brocade; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ruby Cox**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis* 'Brother Paddy', **Grace McCurnin**. Best Gesneriad: *Eucodonia* 'Adele', **Mary E. Gall**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**.

MID ATLANTIC AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Mindi Brooke, Rodeo Showgirl; Best AVSA Mini/ Semi Collection: Frosty Fun, Irish Flirt, Rob's Scooter; Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy, **Roger Peeler**. Best In Show/Best Standard: Party Print, **Marie Burns**. Best Trailer: Meek's Katy Baby, **Bluebird Greenhouse**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Design, **Barbara Peterson**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Black Pagoda', **Sidney Sorano**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Van**. Design Sweepstakes, **Beryl Wood**.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Bertha,

Continued on page 11

VIOLETS and ROMANCE

by Kyle Coleman
Fort Worth, TX



Award-winning romance novelist Sonya Birmingham holds her namesake and 1997 hybrid, 'Sonya's Passion.' (Photograph by Spencer Coleman.)

The Moonlight African Violet Society of Fort Worth, Texas, will be showing their passion for African violets at their 21-22 March 1998 AVSA judged AV show, "Violets and Romance", at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center on University Drive in Fort Worth. As the title suggests, the theme of the show emphasizes the passionate side of growing African violets.

As this year's project plant, the club selected a brand

new cultivar that I had hybridized. 'Sonya's Passion', a variegated compact standard, is named after my friend, Sonya Birmingham, of Burleson, Texas. As a writer, Sonya has won over two dozen writing awards, including an Ox-Bow Award and an Award of Excellence. In 1994, Sonya won the Texas Communication Contest for her historical romance novel, Almost a Lady, which was also selected as a finalist for the National Communication Contest. Other novels by Sonya include Spitfire, Renegade Lady, and Scarlet Leaves, her current novel.

I worked very hard to find just the right hybrid for 'Sonya's Passion'. After sorting through over 300 seedlings from 13 different crosses, the pick-of-the-litter hybrid was first shown at the Moonlight AV Society's 1997 show in Fort Worth, Texas. At this informal dedication ceremony, Sonya got her first look at her new namesake, "What a beautiful plant — the name would even make a good title for a novel!" 'Sonya's Passion' won Best in Class for Standard Specimen Plants with Variegated Foliage.

Sonya's next book, Song of the Lark, will be published this year by Leisure Books, a division of Dorchester Publishing. The book will start to trickle out to major booksellers in late May.

As the Moonlight club's 1998 project plant, a picture of 'Sonya's Passion' graces the cover of the club's 97/98 yearbook. With the help of an ink jet printer and a color scanner, the photo is in full color to capture the passionate combination of lavender blossoms with purple tips and a thin, slightly ruffled geneva edge. (Isn't technology grand?)



"And the winners are ..." continued from page 10

Phantom Flash; Best In Show/Best Standard: Bertha, **Shannon Ahlman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Phantom Flash, Mindi Brooke, Blue is Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Addie Lou Harris, Beginners Luck; Best Semiminiature: Beginners Luck; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection; Rob's Voodoo Blue, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Persian Prince; Best Miniature: Persian Prince, **David Harris**. Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ruby Cox**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther', **Helen Barrett**. Best Design, **Peggy Walsh**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary**

Ann Bjorgaard.

NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maggie Lee, Night Fever, Ode to Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Wee Be; Best in Show/ Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Manitoba, Optimara Ontario, Optimara Van Gogh; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin Lane**. Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bewitched'; Best Design, **Paul Kroll**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

Growing A Show Plant

by Doris Brownlie
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

1. SELECTION OF A PLANT:

- Does the plant grow well for show? Look in the magazines to see if that variety has won any awards.
- Does it produce an abundance of bloom? Do the blooms stand up well in a nice "halo" or "head"?
- Is the foliage distributed evenly, with each row of leaves overlapping the row below without gaps or spaces?
- Am I familiar with the growing and blooming habits of this plant?
- In a variegated plant, do the leaves have enough chlorophyll to produce a good head of bloom?
- Is it a good strong plant of the variety, usually the strongest one from the clump? Is it blooming true according to the description in the Master Variety List?

2. TIMING:

For a Spring show, select your plants between October and January, repot them in 5 or 6 inch pots, put them in the right position on the shelf, under the right light for the variety and remove all blossoms and buds. After that, about every 2 weeks, disbud. (Remove the bloom stalks, leaving nubs about 1/4 to 1/2 inch long.) THESE NUBS MUST BE REMOVED ABOUT 2-3 WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW.

Remove any suckers that form, and remove primary leaves which are completely covered by the one above it. Use leaf supports to aid symmetry.

About 7 weeks before the show, disbud for the last time. Time will vary according to the variety of the plant. Plants with variegated leaves or double blossoms take longer. Some plants bloom quickly. Experience with the variety will teach you this.

QUESTIONS ON GROOMING TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE ENTERING A SHOW PLANT

- Is my plant in the correct sized pot? The pot should be 1/3 of the diameter of the plant.
- Is my plant symmetrical like spokes on a wheel, with no large gaps, and no lower leaves completely covered by the one above it?
- Are there enough blooms on the plant? The number varies according to variety and size, but should be sufficient, according to the size of the plant, to make a pleasing, balanced exhibit.
- Have I cut off all spent blossoms? Cut them close to the peduncle, with no nubs showing.
- Have I removed all suckers from my plant? Check on the last day for these as they appear quickly.
- Does my plant have a neck from the lower leaves having been removed? This MUST be corrected, either by pushing the root ball down in the pot and filling in a little soil, or by removing the plant from the pot, and cutting off a little of the root ball, replacing the plant and filling soil around the neck to the level of the top of the pot. (This should be done at the time of the last disbudding)
- Have I checked to be sure that my plant is insect and disease free?
- Have I brushed all dust, soil and animal hair from the leaves with a soft brush?
- Have I removed all insecticide or mineral stains from the leaves? One teaspoon of vinegar to 1 litre water used with a QTip will work. Even saliva on a QTip will do the job.
- Does the plant have sufficient water to last the duration of the show? Watering one day before with 1 tsp. "Sturdy" to 4 liters water helps to give the plant strength and adds sheen to the leaves.
- Are some blooms hidden by foliage? Ease them up slowly & carefully.





Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

IS THIS HOW MY VIOLETS SHOULD LOOK?

A guide to evaluating the everyday appearance of African violets in the home.

When we first started growing African violets (over twenty years ago), our standards for how a nice plant should look were based on the plants we had seen in the grocery stores and at friends' homes. Basically, we wanted to see flowers. Then we subscribed to the "African Violet Magazine" and saw the color pictures of beautiful show-winning plants. Suddenly our standards changed! We began to expect more from our plants. These higher standards were reinforced by the violets we saw at our first show. We were hooked, and ready to do whatever was required to make our plants look as good as those. Was that realistic? Yes and no.

Yes, because good growers can and do grow African violets to the maximum beauty possible for show. No, because on any given day, even the best growers' plants don't look like show winners. Growing for show is a different art from growing for healthy plants at home.

So what are the standards that any grower should have when surveying a violet collection?

RICH GREEN LEAVES

The foliage tells you everything about the health of your violets. Flowering is a bonus, but it is not the mark of great plants.

Every leaf should be the richest green possible for the variety. Varieties that have red-backed leaves will appear a darker green than varieties that have no extra color on the under-side. Even those with light green foliage should have a rich green tone, with no signs of bleached color. Bleaching will give a light green foliage a mint-green color.

Those with darker green foliage may have a copper-colored appearance when bleached.

Why does bleaching occur? Each African violet has a specific amount of chlorophyll in its cells to process light into energy for the plant. This chlorophyll is replenished by the plant as it is used up by the light. If there is more light than the plant can keep up with, the chlorophyll will be depleted, and the foliage will appear bleached. You could blame direct sunlight, which may be too intense. Fluorescent lights that are too close to your plants or are turned on for too many hours can likewise cause bleaching. But it can also occur because plants are under-fertilized. The principle element needed to make chlorophyll is nitrogen. Nitrogen is provided by nature in the air, but the air supply alone will not provide enough nitrogen so that violets can maximize their chlorophyll. That's one of the reasons that we fertilize.

STURDY, HEALTHY LEAVES

All of the leaves should be firm with no wilting. If there is general wilting, there is a problem. It may be that the plant needs water. That's easy. Wilting may also be caused by a root system in serious stress. This stress may be root rot (usually the resulting from overwatering or a too-heavy soil mix). It may be the result of soil mealy bugs feeding on the roots. Other possibilities might be temperature extremes or repotting shock. It is important to determine the cause of the wilting and cure it as quickly as possible.

If the wilting is limited to a few outside (or lowest row)

leaves, then these leaves should be removed. It is normal for the oldest leaves to age and gradually fail. When they begin to soften and droop, they should be removed. It is possible for wilted leaves to begin to rot on the plant, thus providing a pathway for bacteria into the plant. If the leaf is removed while it is still somewhat fresh, the wound left by the removal will quickly dry and seal.

Leaves should have some thickness and strength in an average home collection, but they will not be as thick as leaves on show plants. They should be strong enough to hold themselves in position. If they are floppy, they may need more even care (consistent water and temperature), such as more light, or fertilizer.

NO SPOTS, CRACKS, OR HOLES IN LEAVES

Aside from the foliage looking healthy and green, we should see perfect leaves as much as possible. Imperfections are an indication that there is something lacking in the culture.

Spots on leaves may be residue left from water droplets. Spraying with chemicals can do this, but that can be remedied somewhat by adding a drop of liquid dish detergent (or a sticker-spreader chemical) to the spray mix. The spots may also result from carelessly watering and splattering the leaves. Blotting them dry promptly will eliminate the problem. Condensation on leaves from rapidly cooling air temperatures (especially in high humidity) can cause some spotting on leaf margins. That situation should be avoided as much as possible, since temperature changes can cause far more severe problems in the long run.

Some spots may be caused by watering directly into the soil with water that is either too cold or too hot. These spots typically are less than an inch across and have a veined appearance. They are usually irregular in shape. To avoid this problem, apply water to the soil and root system that is within ten degrees (either way) of the room temperature. Allowing water to stand for an hour or so before watering makes this easy.

Yellowed or brownish spots that go around the outside edge of the leaf usually indicate a build-up of fertilizer salts inside the plant. This fertilizer burn occurs when the plants also get a little too dry. Keeping plants evenly moist will usually prevent the development of these spots, especially when care is taken not to over fertilize.

Cracks in leaves may be the result of rough handling. Leaves don't benefit from being knocked around. Some growers can't resist touching, moving and feeling their plants. If you are one of these, you need to be very careful. Cracks aren't usually fatal, but they aren't pretty either.

Holes in leaves can develop if a water droplet is left standing on a leaf that is exposed to direct sunlight. The water acts a little like a magnifying glass, and "cooks" a

hole or a deteriorated spot. It is wise to keep plants out of direct sunlight whenever they might have droplets of water on the foliage... especially after spraying.

Holes may be the result of disease, often fungal in nature. In that case, there will usually be a wilted area of the leaf that appears before the hole develops. The hole will have a regular smooth edge all around.

If the hole appears very suddenly, it is more likely to be the result of a chewing pest. Roaches, crickets, grasshoppers or even mice are probably the most likely culprits. The hole they leave will have irregular edges (like it was chewed).

EVEN GROWTH PATTERN

One of the most satisfying parts of mastering violet culture is seeing a consistent pattern in the successive rows of leaves. The center leaves (the crown) will be the smallest. The next row of leaves will be slightly larger, and the next larger yet. At about the fourth or fifth row, the leaves will have grown to their mature size, and the leaves in each of the older rows will be about the same size. In most violets, this forms a pattern of symmetry that is very pleasing.

Occasionally, as plants mature from starter size, you will notice some lower leaves that are smaller than the row of leaves above them. These are commonly referred to as baby leaves. Once the leaves above these baby leaves have matured, you can assume the baby leaves have done most of their work and can be removed.

Don't remove healthy leaves that fit the consistent pattern of your violet! Healthy leaves are energy factories and the whole plant depends on their output. If you must remove a few leaves to keep the plant within a manageable size, you may do so, but try to avoid stripping off multiple rows of leaves. It is much wiser to buy plants that will fit into your space than to strip plants back severely to keep them in size.

ONE CROWN PER PLANT

Most African violets (with the exception of trailing violets) should have one single center of growth. This center is called a crown. It is the growing point from which all new growth should be developing.

When secondary crowns, called suckers, begin to develop they need to be removed. Usually the sucker will appear between rows of leaves, or sometimes just below the bottom row of leaves at the soil line. Left to grow, they will cause the plant to become bushy and disorganized. One root system supports the entire structure, and it will be challenged to keep all parts of the plant healthy.

Why do suckers happen? Sometimes it is because of genetics... one of the parents may have had some trailer in its background. This tendency to sucker is consistent and

often irritating.

Sometimes suckers occur because the plant is a little stressed. Violets, like all plants, have a survival-of-the-species instinct. When they are threatened, they reproduce to ensure their survival. Consistent care can cause this type of suckering to be reduced.

Suckers may also appear when planted too deep in the soil. The potting mix should come up to just below the bottom row of leaves. If soil is piled into the space where the bottom leaves meet the main stem, those leaves will act like mother leaves and make babies.

FOLIAGE FLAT AND LEAVES OVERLAPPING

One of the best indications that you are giving your violet enough light, is a flattened "plate" of leaves. When leaves are reaching up, they are trying to position themselves in a brighter spot. Inadequately lit leaves may grow at odd angles, and will often develop long spidery stems. Plants grown on window sills will often develop a tipped appearance as the entire plant tries to angle itself for a prime light situation.

If you choose to grow in a window, it is important to grow the plants right next to the window where the light is brightest. It is also important to turn the plants at least weekly, to keep growth even and reduce the tipping.

Many serious violet growers have opted to grow only under fluorescent light. This light is bright, high quality, and sufficient to encourage the flat rosettes that make violets look so beautiful. Even here, though, you will find that plants grown on the outer edge of the lighted shelves may develop a tipped look unless plants are regularly turned.

NO NECKS

Violets look most beautiful when the bottom row of leaves is just above the soil level. Unfortunately, as leaves age and are removed, the foliage will gradually be further and further away from the soil level. In the space between, an ugly stem or neck will appear. Necks do not belong in a classy collection of African violets!

Necks need to be buried, the sooner the better. It is our theory that if you can see a neck, it is time to repot and bury that neck. Doing it promptly is fairly painless and keeps your violets looking like they should!

If you've never done this, simply lift the violet out of its pot. Cut away the bottom of the rootball. Gently scrape the neck to remove old dried tissue. Now place the plant back into its pot, and fill in at the top with fresh potting mix. Do not pack the soil. Avoid piling soil up into the bottom rows of leaves. Water it and set it aside.

If the neck was longer than the whole pot, you will have to amputate the root system. Again scrape the neck, fill the pot with fresh potting mix, set the stub of the neck

down into the soil, and water it in. Finally, put the repotted plant inside a clear container that will provide high humidity while the stem develops new roots.

CLEAN AND PRETTY

Every good housekeeper knows that clean looks good. Clean leaves are especially lovely. It's good for the plant too. Light is more effective when it is not being diffused by dust on the leaves. Plants really respond to the improved light they get when their leaves have been cleaned.

Leaves can be cleaned by dusting with a soft brush or by blowing if you need to do it fast. Serious cleaning requires washing however. This is done by allowing a tepid stream of water to run across the leaves, avoiding the center crown. Some growers like to spray a solution of dish detergent and water onto the leaves first. After this has had time to work on the dust and spots (a few minutes), rinse the leaves clean. Blot the leaves dry to remove the droplets of water. Allow the plant to air dry before returning it to a brightly lit spot.

Dead blossoms aren't dirty, but violets can't be called clean until old blossoms are removed. Each time a flower fades, it needs to be picked off.

There's another kind of clean too. This clean involves being free of fungus like powdery mildew and of crawly pests. It's too big a topic to cover here, but it isn't clean until this stuff is gone as well.

BLOSSOMS

Should you see blossoms in a lovely collection of African violets? Of course! But not necessarily on every plant. Each variety of violet blooms on its own schedule. Some burst into heavy bloom and then rest a bit before blooming again. Some keep one or two bud stems up and blooming all the time, but rarely bloom heavily. Some, like many of the rare species, bloom only occasionally.

Folks who grow in window light in our part of the world, learn to expect less blooming during the darker winter months. As days lengthen, springtime often brings on the best blooming of the year.

If you haven't seen much blooming at all, you may want to evaluate if your plants have been receiving enough light. You may also need to improve your fertilizing. Violets seem to need a good supply of phosphorous to flower well. Finally, you may wish to consider if your soil is too heavy. Heavy, packed soils block root development and that will also keep violets from flowering well.

When you set your everyday standards of African violet culture high, you will have healthy, happy plants doing what we want them to do... BLOOMING! Those blossoms are probably the best reward of all for any level of grower.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

What are your favorite shades of flower color for African violets? Do you prefer the pale blues and pinks or the almost rich darker shades? No matter your preference, both extremes of shading are easy to breed for.

There is a gene in African violets that restricts the intensity of the flower color. In the dominant form, the intensity gene (I) restricts the color of the flowers to a fraction of their potential resulting in paler shades of the color. When the plant is homozygous dominant (II), flower color is even more restricted resulting in the pale blues and near-white pinks. When the gene is in the homozygous recessive form (ii), the flower colors will express to their maximum potential, giving the darker shades.

If pale shades are your goal, be sure to breed together plants that have very pale flower colors. The intensity gene should produce many offspring with pale flowers. If darker shades are what you desire, then breed together plants that have dark colors. The offspring should also have very dark colors. If a dark flowered parent (ii) is crossed with a pale flowered parent, the offspring should have intermediate shades because they will inherit one form of the gene from each parent (Ii).

In all cases, the intensity gene is independent of the genes for flower color. For example, you could cross a pale pink with a pale blue and the offspring should have pale shades, probably in pink or blue. As long as white flowered plants are not used, the intensity gene for flower color shades is a very easy one for hybridizers to work with.

Q: *Can you explain how semi-miniature plants appeared in a cross between two standards?*

A: Plant size appears to be a genetic feature where the number of dominant copies of the gene add together to determine the potential size of the plant. Large size is

dominant and smaller size is recessive. The standards used in your cross may carry the recessive for smaller size. When crossed together, a small number of offspring would inherit the gene for small size instead of one or more copies for large size, resulting in semi-miniature plants.

Q: *I recently saw a seedling that was white with a wide mauve ruffle. You have said in your column that edges are dominant, yet the parents of this seedlings were supposedly a solid lavender and a solid mauve. How is this possible?*

A: This sounds like an interesting seedling. I can think of several possible explanations. If only one seedling out of the cross showed edges, you might consider that a mutation has occurred for this one plant. Another possibility is that a pollen grain from a different plant fertilized the egg rather than the supposed parent. If edges were observed for several of the seedlings, you might consider the effect of temperature on colored edges. It may be that one of the parents really is edged, but the temperature of the growing area prevented the trait from being expressed. Also, my model and observations about the inheritance of colored edges may be incomplete or incorrect. I don't know which explanation might be the best one, but I appreciate hearing about this seedling so I can add this observation into my models. It's feedback from readers that enables me update my information and give the most accurate advice I can in this column.

Q: *Is the foliage color linked to the shade of flower color? I've noticed that many plants with dark blue flowers also have very dark foliage while plants with pink or white flowers usually have light green foliage.*

A: Flower color does seem to be linked to the foliage color as you described. It is rare to find a white flowered plant with dark green foliage or a dark blue flowered plant with pale green foliage. However, these combinations do exist, so even if the traits are linked, apparently they can be separated and recombined under some conditions. For most plant breeding purposes, you might go ahead and consider the traits as linked, but be alert for any new or unusual combinations.

Q: *This past winter was hard on my plants because I wasn't able to keep the temperature as warm as I would have liked. Are there any types of African violets that are tolerant to cold?*

A: I'm not as clear about cold tolerance in our hybrid plants, but several of the species African violets are fairly tolerant to cold growing temperatures. Several of the best plants are *S. orbicularis* (both varieties), *S. goetzeana*, *S. teitensis*, and *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis*. *S. velutina* is also a good choice as long as it is well-drained and isn't over watered. Perhaps hybridizers can use the cold tolerance of these plants to develop hybrids that will perform well in

cooler growing areas.

Q: *I have heard a hybridizer comment that unless a seedling had a high bud count in their first bloom, they didn't keep the plant for evaluation. What did they mean?*

A: The number of flower buds a plant produces is a strongly inherited genetic trait. I suspect that the hybridizer is using bud count as a selection method to screen their plants. If a plant can produce a large number of flower buds when grown under crowded conditions as a seedling, it will definitely produce many flower buds when grown under show conditions. If the plant only produces a few flower buds as a seedling, chances are not good that it will produce a high bud count when grown for show. Since space is usually at a premium for most hybridizers, any plants that don't measure up need to be quickly eliminated to make room for other plants. Apparently this hybridizer won't keep a plant unless it first passes this test of bud count. If high bud count is an important characteristic to be developed into new plants, then this method of screening the seedlings would be a good one.

ATTENTION

We are going to try for the third time to get the scale of points for judging new cultivars right!
It has been called to our attention that the scale of points issued in the
January Shows and Judges column is missing 15 points.

Please insert: Color of blossom 15 points.
We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused you.
Bill Foster - *Shows & Judges*

Many THANKS for all the awards that were sent to me for the Sacramento Convention. Your generosity this year has made my job a much easier task. I applaud your kindness! But now I have to say, that if you would like to get a jump start on the 1999 Convention in Houston now is the time to start sending in your awards ... If you are like me, I can't think ahead until the present is behind me. But if you are an early bird, please make your checks payable to: **AVSA Convention Fund**.

Mail them to: **Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**
AVSA Awards Committee Chairman
1416 N. W. A Street
Blue Springs, Mo 64015
816-229-2051 (CST) after 6:00 P.M.

The Name of the Game is the Name

by David Buttram

P.O. Box 193

Independence, MO 64051

I used to enjoy visiting White Cloud Farm in Carthage, Missouri where peonies and African violets were grown and sold. On one visit I saw a bench full of beautiful young plants, each covered by large, very light pink double blooms. The foliage was light green and quilted.

"What beautiful plants those are, Mrs. Grosvene? What is the name?" With a doleful look in her eyes, the owner replied, "Go ahead and take all you want. I sure can't sell them." Mrs. Grosvener went on to explain that most of her customers were turned off by the name hybridizer Max Maas had given this outstanding variety: 'Agnew.'

As I drove home, I thought of the importance of names from a business person's point of view. After many interviews and research on the subject, I have arrived at the conclusion that naming a plant, or any product, is extremely important in successfully marketing it. Just ask Ford Motor Co. if they would ever again use Edsel as a name for a car.

I contacted Max Maas and asked if, in fact, his outstanding introduction had been named in honor of former vice-president Spiro T. Agnew. "Yes, it was," he replied, "the way I look at it, he was no more guilty of wrong doing than the rest of the politicians."

So I learned from Mr. Maas and others that customers buy (or don't buy) an idea, concept or dream often as much as the product itself. Millions of dollars are spent on Madison Avenue every year in developing names and logos for products that will appeal to the dreams, aspirations and desires of buyers.

If 'Agnew' did not appeal to buyers, regardless of the plant's qualities, then how important is a plant's name? The answer from most hybridizers is a resounding "yes, it is very important." Therefore, the most successful hybridizers have an ear for sound as well as an eye for beauty.

The use of a series name is helpful in identifying a hybridizer. Dr. Ralph Robinson prefaces all his introductions with his less formal nickname, 'Rob.' Likewise, Granger Gardens used 'Granger's,' 'G.G.'s' and 'Granger Garden's' to set their cultivars apart. The 'Wrangler' series name came about not by a tall lanky cowboy, but when hybridizer Winston Smith saw an appealing ad for Wrangler jeans. The name seemed so

appropriate for the southeast Texas grower.

Reverend Charles Blades began hybridizing African violets in the late 1960s and met with only fair success, even though the plants were really outstanding. When he successfully crossed on to 'Tommie Lou' and got variegated foliage, he applied his nickname, 'The Parson' to his new series. The name and variegated foliage were a big hit across the country.

While some series are lengthy, others are shorter, as in the case of Lyon Greenhouses, where Sidney Sorano has given us several angels, including 'Angel Fluff,' 'Angel Lace,' 'Angel Song,' 'Angelic Glow,' 'Angel's Petticoats' and 'Angel-n-Trouble.' Sidney likes to use 'Cinnamon' and 'Snuggles' as a prefix also.

Sidney also brings a little spice to naming African violets as evidenced by 'Big Tease,' 'Careless Moment,' 'Charming Heart,' 'Dolled Up,' 'Dream Lover,' 'Fancy Flirt,' 'Fickle Flirt,' 'Heart's Aglow,' 'Hot Date' and many others.

Another hybridizer carried this trend even further. I once asked Jeannette Domiano why she used somewhat earthy, even suggestive, names for several of her plants. "Oh, I think African violets are very sexy. You know.... the birds and bees. You take the pollen from one plant and apply it to another plant." From this outlook came cultivars named 'Aphrodisiac,' 'Bedroom Eyes,' 'Beguiling,' 'Brazen Embrace,' 'Deep Dark Secret,' 'Easy Love,' 'Forbidden Ecstasy,' 'Kiss and Tell,' 'Makin' Romance' and 'My Wicked Ways.'

Jeannette lived in the New Orleans area and was also influenced by the French heritage of that area. A few examples: 'Aubergine,' 'Belizaire,' 'Betelgeuse,' 'Bienvenu.'

Other hybridizers look to their surroundings for inspiration, such as 'Adirondack Trail' by Lyon Greenhouses, which is located in the foothills of the great Adirondack mountains. Hortense Pittman used the prefix name 'Alamo' for many of her introductions while living in San Antonio, Texas. Ralph Robinson visited Australia and now we have 'Rob's Toonooka,' 'Rob's Willawong,' and 'Rob's Woolloomooloo.'

Ernie Fisher was a very prolific Canadian hybridizer who named many of his varieties after children of family members, customers and friends. This practice was sometimes confusing, as when he used similar names such

as 'Jeffrey David' and 'Jeffrey Thomas.' Then there is 'Adam James' and 'Adam Scott.'

In 1971 Mr. Fisher named a seeding with double rose-fuschia star blossoms 'Elisa Frew' after the woman who manufactured the support rings so popular at the time. Mrs. Frew also raised gorgeous white Persian cats. So, Mr. Fisher named subsequent introductions after her cats. That is how we got 'Juan Tu,' 'Me-su' and 'TuTu.' These varieties were popular with cat lovers.

A few years ago I had a sales table at an AVSA national convention. Shortly after opening one morning, a lady rushed up to me and almost shouted, "Do you have 'Cat's Meow' by June Swift?," "I don't think so, but what does it look like?" was my reply. "Oh' I don't know and don't care. I am a cat person and just have to have it!" she exclaimed, and she went in search of it.

If I knew who she was, I would be glad to tell her about 'Kitten Prints,' 'Kitten Mittens,' 'Dean's Kitten,' 'Kopy Kat,' 'Top Cat,' and 'Kitty Fisher.' Oops, that last one is probably a person.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds in adjacent words or syllables. This device produces pleasant and sometimes catchy sounds and is used often by skilled writers and public speakers.

Using alliteration in naming African violets has effectively been done by Sidney Sorano and Hortense Pittman and others. These varieties almost have a musical quality when spoken out loud. From Sidney came 'Fancy Flirt,' 'Fickle Flirt' and 'Louisiana Lullaby.'

Hortense Pittman has given us 'Blue Blood,' 'Bravo Blue,' 'Dancing Dear,' 'Magic Mood,' 'Misty Miss,' and many more.

Does a mistake ever creep into a hybridizer's list or AVSA registration applications? Yes, occasionally they do, as when a very nice plant with plain leaves and double white blooms was registered as 'Granger's Artic [sic] Mist.'

Sometimes foreign words or names are used to add variety or to honor another culture. The latter is the case when Granger Gardens began using Japanese names such as 'Ayako,' 'Emiko,' 'Hiroko,' and 'Kazumi' to reflect Jim

Eyerdom's wife's heritage.

'San Souci' in French means "without a care," (carefree). When 'Granger's Carefree' sported for me several years ago the name seemed to be a logical choice, and the plant is registered under that name.

Some plant names are direct and to the point, such as 'Red Star' and 'Ruffled Red,' both by Max Maas' which have, respectively, a single vivid red star blossom and a semi-double dark red star with ruffled foliage.

Other names are a little bit more esoteric as in the case of Domiano's 'August Thirteenth,' 'Everdina', hybridized by Inpijn, and Marie Burns' 'Ocean Eyes.'

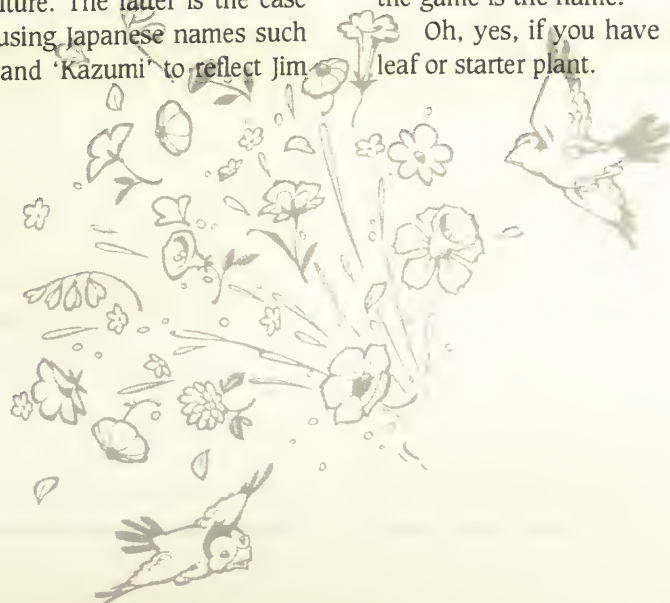
There are those names that do not fit into any of the above categories - they just sound good. How could you not like 'Dean's Frosted Peach' 'Great Big Hug,' 'Apricot Silk', 'Heavenly Dawn,' and 'Honey Pink.' If you are hungry, 'Blackberry Jam', 'Blueberry Ruffles,' 'Cherries'n'Cream,' and 'Lemon Cream' are all from Lyon Greenhouses and sound good enough to eat.

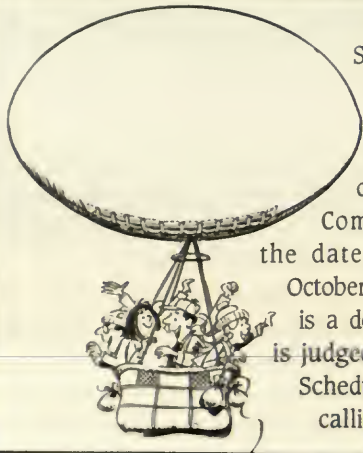
We are greatly influenced by names. Hopefully, they will conjure up certain positive images or trigger emotional responses that motivate us to order plants and leaves. I admit that I have ordered plants based solely on the name. One such plant was named 'Luscious Pink' and it sounded, ...it sounded so luscious! Then there was 'Delectable' and it sounded very...I think you get the idea.

The 1998 catalogs and lists are ready from your favorite commercial members, and remember, as you read them, that not only did a lot of hard work go into hybridizing, proving and growing of the new cultivars, but even the names were given careful thought and consideration.

The long term success of a variety depends on its appeal to the eye and its performance as a fast and easy grower. The early sales of an introduction, however, is due largely to the reputation of the hybridizer and his or her description of the plant and its name, for truly the name of the game is the name.

Oh, yes, if you have 'Agnew,' I would love to have a leaf or starter plant.





The Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society extends an invitation to all AVSA members to participate in our Fall Design Competition. This year the dates of the show are October 3 and 4, 1998. This is a design only show that is judged under AVSA rules. Schedules are available by calling (505) 343-9031

and leaving name and address on a recording. Our design show coincides with the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the most photographed event in the world. The Fiesta is Oct. 3 through the 11. Everyone who would like to attend is urged to make hotel reservations as soon as possible. Some hotels are completely booked as early as March and every hotel room in town is occupied during the fiesta. If you are interested in the balloon fiesta and our design show but can not quite decide, please e-mail last year's judges, Barbara Elkin; jabar@foothill.net or Pat Richards; patter257@aol.com or Norah Otto; otton@spot.colorado.edu They have agreed to share their adventures here.

HIDE AND SEEK WITH A RESERVOIR

by Maxine Geiss • Fredric, MI

When a plastic reservoir is used to wick-water plants, that exposed container is not the most attractive item on the shelves.

Of course, many variations are available commercially that make attractive decorator additions. For many, a wicker basket serves to hide the ugly container. These can be obtained not only in craft stores, but also at garage sales for a much reduced rate.

Recently, a craft handout shed a new light on decorator approaches to hiding the reservoir. Many colorful fabrics can be used to construct a covering. The following directions are for an eight-ounce reservoir. Two 18" circles of fabric are cut and then placed upside down on each other with the right, or finished sides facing each other. The circles are sewn together around the outside edge with about four inches left open for turning. Clip the seam allowance all around, turn, and press. The opening can be folded under and hand sewn. A piece of lace, rickrack, or other trim can be sewn on the outside of the circle.

Place a sturdy object which is taller than the 8 oz. reservoir on the surface. Invert the reservoir over it. The fabric is evenly draped over the reservoir and secured with a rubber band where the material rests against the opening of the reservoir.

The next step is to stiffen the circle. Using a fabric stiffener (generally available at craft stores), the material is completely sprayed or brushed to saturate the fabric. The fabric is molded by hand to make a ruffled edge. It may be necessary to treat the cover several times until it is stiff enough to stand alone.

Invert the cover along with the reservoir and remove the rubber band. Add ribbon to replace the string to hold

the top of the cover in place. The plant can then be added, and the pot will be partially covered by the frill.

If a different sized reservoir is used, measure the height of the container, double this figure, add the diameter of the reservoir, and add about five inches to determine the diameter of the circle of material.

By using seasonal fabrics, the assembly can be changed for the holidays. It is one way to use lovely African violets as a part of the decor.

A dainty cover to hide the reservoir can be made by stiffening a lace doily in the same manner. This is a good use for those antique doilies that many people have laying around the house and are not sure how they can be used. They will stay fairly clean so they can be shown off and enjoyed, but are not apt to have coffee, etc. dropped on them. Any bad spots on the doily can be hidden under the folds or put toward the back.

It may sound complicated, but once the first cover is made, more can follow at a rapid pace.





Discover California!

SESQUICENTENNIAL!!!

Hard enough to say let alone spell. Sesquicentennial, Yes that's the word. Thought you would never ask!!!!. Our Sesquicentennial is the 150 year anniversary of the discovery of gold in California. 1848 was the year to remember.

The commotion caused by the discovery of gold at Colma was heard around the world in just a few months. There were no telephones, let alone televisions, and was spread strictly by word of mouth.

The celebration will last for two whole years and will be in place during your visit to Sacramento.

Here are a few things to do and see on your own:

California State Capital: Modeled after the nation's Capital Building, the distinctive State Capital dates from 1869 and has been restored to its turn-of-the-century splendor. Tours explore the architecture and recent renovations, legislative chambers, old governor's office and lush gardens of the 40 acre park; films make your visit

complete. The building stands on Tenth Street between N and L Streets, downtown Sacramento.

California State Indian Museum: This museum displays the rich and diverse culture of California's earlier inhabitants through displays, hands-on exhibits and demonstration areas. At 2618 K Street, on the same grounds as Sutter's Fort, downtown Sacramento.

Crocker Art Museum: Built in 1872, the Crocker Art Museum is the oldest museum in the West. Today, the museum is best loved for its spectacular Victorian architecture, the early California painting collection, Old Master drawings, international ceramics collection and colorful contemporary California Art. 216 O Street, downtown Sacramento.

Leland Stanford Museum: Over a century old, the home of former Californian governor, senator, railroad baron Leland Stanford. Pre-restoration tours are available, and focus on the archaeological search for clues to the house's past and upcoming re-creation of its 19th-century splendor. 802 N Street, downtown Sacramento.

Sutter's Fort: Surrounded by 2-1/2-foot-thick white adobe walls, this is the original site where John Sutter settled in 1839. The entire confines of the frontier settlement have been authentically rebuilt. Self guided tour with radio-wands take you through carpenters' and blacksmith' shops, a bakery, jail, dining, and living quarters, as well a special exhibits museum and visitor orientation. 22710 L Street, downtown.

Towe Ford Museum: Travel on a sentimental journey. bedazzled by brass and chrome headlights, two-toned paint jobs and a nostalgic glimpse of days gone by. View the most complete collection of antique Fords in the World. Over 180 vehicles arranged in chronological order to depict the history of America as it was influenced by the automobile. 2200 Front Street, near Old Town Sacramento.

Wells Fargo History Museums: Two separate museums display hundreds of items including original artifacts, documents, old photos and lithographs, bringing to life the commercial history of Sacramento and Wells Fargo's' role in it since 1852. The Capitol Mall location has the original restored Concord Stage Coach. 400 Capitol Mall, downtown Sacramento; also at 1000 Second Street, Old Town Sacramento.

Special meal requests must be made to the AVSA Office at time of registration. Requests made directly to the hotel will **not** be honored.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before March 19, 1998** will receive table assignments. **All reservations received after that date will have unreserved seating at meal functions.**

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

A word of apology to any of you who sent stamped envelopes for me to send you a personal reply. I didn't overlook your letter, I was unable to do any writing as I had surgery on my right shoulder in October. Would really appreciate questions that can be answered in the column as I'm scheduled for therapy for quite some time and individual letters are a problem.

Question: *My center leaves of both mature and small plants develop a condition which resembles mite (microscopic examination proves otherwise). Can you explain why when the dry shriveled leaves are removed and the plant is set aside, it develops into a perfectly normal plant?*

Answer: There has been a great deal of discussion about this problem with as many views as there are growers involved. I'm taking my life in my hands even speaking on this subject especially since it's called the 'California Crud'!

The subject continues to come up at various meetings and it's interesting to note that instead of being one problem, three separate factors come under discussion. A number of people have gone to the expense of getting an electron microscope examination to rule out a virus or other disease, so that leaves the other three problems that immediately come up for discussion:

Chloramine, High urea content in fertilizer, & plant stress. Since I haven't had the problem I probably escaped due to the first two factors. I was not caught by the change in water since I draw all of my water hot and let it stand for at least 24 hours and I laid in a 20 year supply of fertilizer in 1995 because my favorite brand was being discontinued. Starting with chloramine, it sounds like many growers were advised it was not being added to their water, which proved untrue and its addition occurred before complete testing took place. One other factor in my favor was offered by a non grower, a chemist that provided this tidbit. You need humus for the break-down of the urea into an element which is available to the plant - I use sifted oak leaf mold as a part of the base for my mix, making urea an



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

available food for my plants. The third factor may have been a combination of the first two, water imbalance and too much urea, causing great stress to the plants. Under stress any slip in cultural or adverse weather condition is immediately reflected in the plants. Most plants in good condition will stand some adversity but if they are already under stress. Unfortunately the growers weren't even aware of the changes that had taken place until they had thrown out many plants with supposed "Mites" in order to protect their collection. Many growers spoke of the miracle recovery of the infested plants when the stress was eliminated (the water COs got their act together).

Question: *A new member asks, what are culture folders?*

Answer: These are invaluable folders with information on African violets to be given to the public and includes a membership application. They can be given out when you put on a show, give a talk or for visitors to your club. They are available from AVSA. All information to secure the folders is on the inside cover of the AVM.

Question: *I used to be able to buy little plant sticks called "Bag a Bug" to insert into the soil to prevent insects in the pot. Since they don't seem to be available, do you believe it is necessary to put any kind of insect killer in the pots?*

Answer: The danger in using any insecticide in the pot is the health risk. You might have a cut on a finger and when your hand comes in contact with the soil during repotting you could have the insecticide enter at this point, especially if for some reason it was necessary to repot soon after the addition of the insecticide. If you do need to use an insecticide in the soil you should consider wearing surgical gloves when potting. The product you mention is not known to me and this brings up the fact that certain supplies are available only in given areas of the country.

Question: *Someone I know has a blooming African*

violet plant that has been in the same pot for 15 years. It is bottom watered, leaving the water in the saucer for 2 or 3 hours. I was told you should empty the saucer after 30 minutes. Which time is correct?

Answer: When someone is having success you don't argue. Each person must determine what works in their environment, but even more important, what do you want your plants to give you? Is excellent foliage, abundant bloom and general show quality your desire or is frequent bloom the year round so you can show off some blooms of fair quality enough? What are the comparative values in your mind of the plants being produced by the different methods? It's your choice of growing styles that make it correct or incorrect for you. Different soil mixes absorb water at different rates so this is also a consideration.

Question: *Is there a technical term for the way a plant leans toward a light?*

Answer: The term is *phototropism*. *Tropism* (Greek: *tropos*; turn) are growth responses to external stimuli caused by a physiological process and are actually the result of plant hormones. This hormone is named *auxin*, after a Greek word meaning "to increase". The side of the stem that is away from the light source accumulates auxin and this causes the cells to grow at a faster rate resulting in the stem bending toward the light.

Question: *Is a mixture of perlite and vermiculite better for puffing down leaves than regular AV potting*

soil?

Answer: Since perlite and vermiculite are sterile products you are less likely to have loss due to bacteria or damping off. Again, there are many people who routinely have excellent results with soil mix. The question might be how sterile their soil mix is and the watering conditions? Over watering with a soil mix could be a disaster.

Question: *I recently received a few plants in the mall (a couple of which were damaged). Another friend suggested I disbud to encourage repair of the foliage. Is this necessary? There are a couple of blossom stalks that have lovely flowers that I would like to keep.*

Answer: In order to obtain the best growth in a new environment you need to remove the buds, broken or discolored leaves, damaged or dark roots, thus promoting new roots and good central growth. You want to encourage "Best" central growth by directing the energy to this area with the removal of all damaged, poorly developed and immature leaves (any leaf that is smaller than the leaves in the row above) as well as buds. When foliage has attained optimum condition it is time for the bloom. This way you protect the plant as well as reaping a nice bloom display. Do protect your new plants by giving it every chance in its new home. A few days of bloom are not worth the chance of losing a desirable plant.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



AFFILIATES YOU ARE INVITED

You are invited to join us at the
Affiliate Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 1997
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.
in Sacramento, California.

Bring copies of your past or current show schedules, yearbooks, newsletters and IDEAS to share. The meeting is open to the President, AVSA Representative, and any interested affiliate member. Join us for a time of
GROWING AND SHARING TOGETHER

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 OCTOBER - 1 DECEMBER 1997

Ohio State AVS, OH	\$50.00	"Happiness Is" AVS, Longmont, CO	\$25.00
<i>Towards new fax machine for Beaumont</i>		<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Georgiana Aboko-Cole, Silver Spring, MD	\$10.00	North Star AV Council, Edina, MN.	\$50.00
Venessa Castleberry, Waco, TX	\$10.00	<i>In fond memory of Caroline Fleisch</i>	
Cincinnati, Ohio AVS	\$25.00	Columbus AVS, Columbus OH.	\$25.00
<i>Donation - Beaumont office new fax</i>		<i>Towards purchase of new AVSA fax</i>	
Springfield Ohio AV Club.	\$25.00	In fond memory of our very dear friend	\$100.00
<i>To be applied towards the new fax machine</i>		<i>Frances Beaver of Shawnee, KS. A great lover of African violets.</i>	
Jack Record, North Bay, NY	\$20.00	<i>A tremendously vibrant, intelligent and kind woman.</i>	
John Sullivan, Danville, VA.	\$2.00	Jean Marie Ross, Auburndale, FL	\$15.00
Loveland Sweetheart Violetes Society, Loveland, CO.	\$60.00	<i>In fond memory of Doretha Gill</i>	
<i>Office computer up-grade</i>		Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO	\$10.00
Parmatown AV Club of Ohio.	\$50.00	<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>To help AVSA with a new fax machine</i>		Betty Margetts, Longmont, CO	\$5.00
Pat Vinciguerra, Upland, CA	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>In memory of Ed Shirley, Hesperia, CA.</i>		Martha Olander, Denver, CO	\$10.00
Wisconsin Council of AVSA Clubs	\$25.00	<i>Towards Nell-Sue Tyson memorial</i>	
<i>Apply towards the office computer up-grade</i>		Karen Anderson, Erie, CO	\$10.00
Violeteers Club of Lakewood, CO	\$25.00	<i>Towards plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>Towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>		Jean Miller, Arvada, CO	\$10.00
Patricia Bond, Cape Coral, FL	\$10.00	<i>Towards Nell-Sue Tyson memorial</i>	
<i>Beaumont office computer up-grade</i>		Betty Alden, Parker, CO	\$10.00
Town & Country AVS, Painesville, OH.	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>New fax machine - AVSA office</i>		Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO	\$10.00
North Star AV Council, Edina, MN.	\$15.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Rocky Mountain AV Council, CO.	\$25.00		
<i>In memory of A. (Stan) Stancliff</i>			
		Total	\$682.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17611 N. 102nd Drive

Sun City, AZ 85373-1616

Donations received from September 30, 1997 - November 30, 1997

First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	\$25.00	Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	\$50.00
Bellflower AVS, Long Beach, CA	\$10.00	<i>In memory of Myrtle Peak, a violet friend</i>	
<i>In memory of Barbara Coster</i>		Mrs. Grace McKneely Barlow and Family, Denham Springs, LA.	\$50.00
Violets & Friends, Piqua, OH.	\$10.00	<i>In memory of Mrs. T.B. (Myrtle) McKneely</i>	
North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN	\$15.00	Summer Lace AVS, Tallahassee, FL	\$50.00
Canton Ohio AVS, Canton, OH	\$260.57	<i>In lieu of a speaker fee to Louise Merritt of Pensacola, FL</i>	
<i>Our club disbanded and the balance of our treasury</i>		TriState AV Council, NJ	\$10.00
<i>is given for violet research</i>		<i>In lieu of Judge's expenses for Laura Shannon & Sandra Skalski</i>	
Wisconsin Council of AVSA Clubs	\$25.00	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA	\$20.00
Carol Ann Cook, Circleville, OH	\$50.00	<i>In memory of Dan McConnell & George Lyshon</i>	
<i>In loving memory of Alice T. Yawger, Clearwater, FL</i>		Conrad N Nelson, Minneapolis, MN	\$2.00
Orange County AVS, Brea, CA.	\$25.00	John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$2.00
<i>In memory of Pat Cohen</i>		Leslie Peters, Los Altos, CA	\$25.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from October 1, 1997 to November 30, 1997

Inner City AVS, St. Louis, MO	\$10.00	TriState AVC, Trenton, NJ	\$15.00
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO	\$10.00	<i>in lieu of Judges expense</i>	
<i>in lieu of speaker fee for Jim Britton</i>		Mrs. Helen M. Lisowski, Glenview, IL	\$1000.00
Tidewater AVS, Hampton, VA.	\$25.00	Mr. John Sullivan, Danville, VA	\$2.00
North Star AVC, Bloomington, MN	\$15.00	Bergen County AVS, Wood Ridge, NJ	\$25.00
First of Dallas AVS, Red Oak, TX	\$20.00	WI Council of African Violet Clubs, Milwaukee, WI	\$25.00
<i>in memory of Leroy Hagemann</i>		Total	\$1147.00



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets

by Leta Moser and Dr. Jeff Smith

The Indian a Academy of Science, Mathematics, and Humanities; Muncie, IN 47306

Although it was once thought that nutrients could only enter through the roots, researchers now know differently (Elbert and Elbert, 1984). Foliar feeding assumes that the plant directly absorbs the minerals through the leaves or other non-root locations (Clements, 1988). It is a non-traditional way of supplying a plant with needed nutrients allowing the leaf, stem, or branch to take in the vital minerals by a spraying a diluted fertilizer on the plant's stems and leaves. According to African violet literature, foliar feeding may be used as a medicine for a sickly plant until it has recovered (Clements, 1988). Baby plants have also been noted to grow much faster when foliar fed (Mackey, 1983). To help with the rapid growth of show plants, foliar feeding is sometimes recommended (Burns, 1986). It can also be used to get some color in a discolored plant (Green, 1986) or to "pull a plant out of a sickly state" (Robey, 1980, p.75). Mackey (1983) claimed that only 10% of the nutrients applied to the soil were actually absorbed by the roots while 95% of the nutrients applied to the leaves were absorbed by foliar feeding. However, none of these claims appear to be supported by controlled experiments; most declarations appear to be made by hobbyists and have been embellished by word of mouth.

To test the effects of foliar feeding on African violets, an experiment was conducted. Sixty African violets of the cultivar 'Trail-along' were used. Twenty plants were controls, nineteen plants (one rotted off early in the study) were foliar fed fish emulsion fertilizer, and twenty plants were given Optimara brand fertilizer. The fish emulsion fertilizer was used because it was the most common nutrient solution reported for use in foliar feeding African violets. The Optimara fertilizer was used because it is a popular fertilizer used by many growers.

The plants were grown for two months under greenhouse conditions. They were watered using a capillary matting system of newspaper over Styrofoam boards. The newspaper-covered boards were placed in trays containing water so that the newspaper absorbed water to the base of the pots by capillary action. The plants then received the water by a wicking system with yarn. The wick was pulled through the pot so that part of it was contained within the soil. A section was left outside the pot, in contact with the newspaper, to pull up as much or as little water as the plant

needed. A standard fertilizer solution (7-9-5) was applied to the water in the tray.

The plants were foliar feed every seven days. The control plants were misted with distilled water while the experimental plants were foliar fed. The fish emulsion and Optimara treatment plants were misted with a solution made according to the directions on the fertilizer packaging. The plants were arbitrarily mixed on the tray and each plant was removed from the tray when being treated to prevent accidental foliar feeding of the solutions to the wrong plants. A plastic bib protected the soil so that excess solution would not drip into the soil, fertilizing the plants though the roots. Foliar feeding was stopped when the mist beaded on the leaves, as suggested by Green (1986). At the end of two months of treatment, the plants were harvested and the fresh and dry weights of the roots and shoots were measured. The shoot/root ratios were also calculated. All of the data was analyzed by ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) for significant differences within a treatment and between treatments.

It was hypothesized that the plants should show different affects in plant growth because the nutrient concentrations of the fertilizer were different. The three numbers a fertilizer advertises are the percent available of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Each chemical has a different effect on plant growth and development. Nitrogen increases foliage, phosphorus enlarges bloom, and potassium aids root development. The fish emulsion fertilizer was formulated as 5-1-1. The Optimara formulation was 14-12-14. Because the Optimara fertilizer was the highest in nitrogen, it was hypothesized that the Optimara group would have the greatest mass of shoots (foliage and bloom), followed by the fish emulsion and control groups. In roots, it was also hypothesized that the Optimara fed plants would weigh more than the control and fish emulsion groups.

The results found no significant differences ($P=.05$) within treatments or between treatments for any of the five values tested (Table 1-root fresh mass, root dry mass, shoot fresh mass, shoot dry mass, and Table 2-shoot/root ratio). Although the roots of the control plants, on average, were slightly higher in mass (fresh and dry) than the foliar fed plants, the results were not significant. The higher root mass in the control plants suggests that these plants may

have needed more roots for mineral absorption than the foliar fed plants. The controls were entirely dependent on the roots for nutrient absorption since they were not receiving extra nutrients through their leaves as the other two groups were.

The results suggest that foliar feeding fertilizers does not increase plant growth over controls that were misted with distilled water. This suggests that the plants are not capable of absorbing nutrients through the leaf, as Mackey proclaimed. Perhaps the benefits claimed for foliar feeding are actually the result of the fertilizer dripping into the soil (which was prevented in this study). If this were the case, the growth that was attributed to foliar feeding would actually be due to root fertilization, not foliar feeding. This may explain the results reported in the literature as compared to our findings. The foliar fed plants did not experience a great growth increase compared to the controls, suggesting roots may be the only way for the

plants to receive nutrients.

A flaw in the methodology however, may also explain the difference. It was observed that the soil of the plants sometimes became dry even when the pot was in good contact with the newspaper used for capillary matting. It was assumed that through this watering system the plants would be able to receive the needed amount of water. However, if the plants were stressed for water, the effects of foliar feeding might not have been apparent.

Although this experiment rejected the hypothesis that foliar feeding benefits African violets, there is reason to take these results cautiously. A new experiment, with a direct wicking system (in which the yarn is in actual contact with the water), is planned to further test the effects of foliar feeding. If the replicate experiment also fails to find any affect of foliar feeding on plant growth, then this method of fertilizing African violets may not be worth the time or effort.

Table 1
Average mass in grams

	Fresh Root	Shoot	Dry Root	Shoot
Control n=20	.57	5.52	.07	.36
Fish emulsion n=19	.48	5.25	.05	.34
Optimara n=20	.48	5.79	.05	.36

Table 2
Shoot/Root average mass ratios

	Fresh	Dry
Control	10.46	6.15
Fish Emulsion	12.04	6.65
Optimara	13.50	7.82

Literature Cited

- Bums, M. (1986, May). Foliar Feeding of African Violets, African Violet Magazine, pp. 35.
- Clements, T. (1988). African Violets. Great Britain: Redwood Books Ltd.
- Elbert, V. F., and Elbert, G. A. (1984). The Miracle Houseplants. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Green, B. L. (1986, Mar.). Foliar Feeding: A Diet Supplement, African Violet Magazine, pp.14.
- Mackey, H. N. (1983, Mar.). Foliar Feeding, African Violet Magazine, pp.30-31.
- Robey, M. J. (1980). African Violets. San Diego: A. S. Barnes & Company, Inc.
- Welchel, L. C. (1988, May/June). Some Thoughts & Observations on Foliar Feeding, African Violet Magazine, pp.24.



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Ella H. Broom and Barbara J. Marsh
Ft. Collins, CO

Saintpaulia enthusiasts have a wonderful opportunity to share their enthusiasm by partnering with a school teacher. Do you know a teacher? If not, contact a school principal or volunteer coordinator.

It is important to remember that each of you is approaching this opportunity from a different perspective. Teachers have completed both educational and credentialing requirements. They are held accountable for who comes into their classroom, the interaction between guest and students, and the time allotted to materials covered. Guests, therefore, must have more than enthusiasm.

The surest way to get your "foot in the door" is to treat this volunteer opportunity as if it were a job. If asked to, would you be willing to sign a contract? What would that contract say? How many hours are you willing to put into this project both in and out of the classroom? What knowledge, or access to experts who have specific knowledge, do you possess that changes your enthusiasm into a valuable resource to an educator? Can your project be replicated for other classrooms?

Be prepared when you meet with the school representative. Begin by taking your resume to the initial meeting. For the African violet enthusiast, this resume may be more pictures than words. Show your expertise in the degrees of your plants. Do you have pictures of plants from propagation to new plants? Do you have a photograph of when you won a ribbon? Those pictures are truly "worth a thousand words"!

Another item you should take to the initial meeting is an outline of your ideas for African violets in the classroom. This outline will have many uses. It will be the basis for discussion between yourself and the educator. The outline will assure the teacher that you are

interested in being a team member who respects what she/he does in the classroom. You will show the teacher that you are interested in sharing their workload, not adding to it when you come to the meeting prepared. By having an outline from which to work, the teacher will be able to assess how your African violet projects will reinforce other areas of their curriculum.

A sample kit is also helpful at the initial meeting. This kit should show any materials that you would use in one lesson plan. Are you going to make the plastic container saucer a recycling project? Then take a container that you have recycled from your own home as an example of the accessibility of these materials. By including recycling in your lesson plans, you open the door to reaching parents. Recycling also makes projects affordable for all students and gives them a feeling of ownership.

Ask the teacher how communication usually occurs between the classroom and the home. Education is a process where parents and other community members are an integral part. Parents are a valuable resource because in addition to supplying recycled materials, they can assist in specific tasks such as helping to organize materials already at school, assisting on potting day, set up a learning center, or reproduce handouts. They can also act as additional liaisons between the school and the community in the areas of donation of supplies, finding additional expert guest speakers and enlisting the aid of civic clubs such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions. They can also organize evening or weekend field trips to involve even more parents. Some parents may see this as an opportunity for them to fulfill a long-time dream of growing an African violet as well. Parental involvement at any level establishes and nurtures a community of learners. Student's self-esteem grows as parents and other community members participate in the knowledge exchange process.

Today's students are eager to learn. Teachers work under time and budget constraints; local, state, and national competencies and evaluation expectations. The

African violet enthusiast's classroom activities promote development of logical/critical thinking skills through sequential activities that are broken down into components to facilitate systematic development, application of concepts, principles, and re-enforcement of knowledge. Students will experience science as a component of daily living. African violet projects can remove the intimidation of science for both students and teachers as people of either gender and multiple ethnic backgrounds are represented in the classroom from non-traditional fields.

As the project blossoms, the African violet enthusiast will want to seek input from those with whom she/he is working. A performance assessment form may be easiest for students to use. You will also want to have brief periodic meetings with the teacher. Schedule these at a time that fits into the teacher's work day such as her/his regular planning time. Meetings with the teacher are also an opportunity to give her/him information about other resources in the community that are available to them. Depending upon the age of the students, some of this information can be developed as hand-outs if the teacher would so desire.

Overheads must be proofed by the teacher prior to being presented to the class. A quick meeting with the teacher will let you know if there are overheads that are available for your use, or if you need to develop some of your own. Overheads should include, but not be limited to, terms and definitions, diagrams of African violets where the parts of the plants are labeled, the process of science as it relates to developing and testing a hypothesis, and the process of using the Scientific Method.

African violet enthusiasts have the opportunity to partner with the teacher in subjects such as global skills, creative writing, language arts, and history, as well as science. Do you know where the first African violet was discovered? Do you know who discovered it? Do you know how the plant moved from Tanzania to Germany? Have you ever compared the Colonial Era as a global event to the American experience? Do you know how a plant gets its scientific name? These are the types of

questions that the Saintpaulia grower can introduce to a classroom. The teacher can help you tie this information into their lesson plans to fit other areas of the curriculum. Students can use spelling words in the creative writing piece. Use latitude and longitude lines to locate Tanzania and Germany. Use as many descriptor/adjectives to describe the African violets, and write a class book about the African violet.

Teachers enjoy experiencing the growth of their students during each year. However, they too need nurturing to lessen their chance of burnout. Teachers need partners in the classroom who understand and use standards and curriculum guides, and are willing to help their students meet expectations.

Even if you are unable to participate in classroom activities, there are other ways to help educators. Give a teacher a plant for their desk when you offer to help grade papers. By doing so, you have the opportunity to lighten their load in more ways than one. African violet enthusiasts can volunteer to be pen pals to students in their areas. The inter-generational tie is an important component of development for young people. You may even be able to encourage them to write a creative story about how the African violet traveled from Tanzania to Germany and then to the world beyond. This activity can be used to encourage a student to see how the world opens up to them when they read.

Often young people will find that they too, have to move to a new environment. By knowing how plants adapt to new environments, it can diminish some of their fears.

African violet growers should always see that schools have information about any African violet shows that are going on in the area. African violets are not just for grandmothers anymore. Just as all plants bring more than sustainability to our life, a partnership between the African violet enthusiast and a teacher brings about educational opportunities for everyone involved that is needed to live full and productive lives. Growing African violets has many benefits. One of which can be developing a passion for life-long learning.



Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
2 MON 12:01 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
3 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
4 WED 2:15 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
5 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 3:41 am
6 FRI 7:27 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 SAT	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
8 SUN 3:46 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
9 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
10 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
11 WED 2:36 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
12 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 11:35 pm
13 FRI 2:59 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
14 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
16 MON 3:51 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
17 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
18 WED 3:56 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
19 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
20 FRI	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
21 SAT 1:43 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 2:38 am
22 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
23 MON 8:02 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
24 TUE	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
25 WED 10:45 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
26 THU	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
27 FRI 10:49 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 10:14 pm
28 SAT	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
29 SUN 10:07 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
30 MON	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
31 TUE 10:38 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 WED	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
2 THU 2:10 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
3 FRI	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 3:19 pm
4 SAT 9:36 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 SUN	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
6 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 TUE 8:26 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
8 WED	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
9 THU 9:05 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
10 FRI	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
11 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	Full 5:24 pm
12 SUN 9:55 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 MON	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 TUE 9:52 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
15 WED	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
17 FRI 8:05 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
18 SAT	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
19 SUN 3:42 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 2:53 pm
20 MON	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
21 TUE 8:07 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
22 WED	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 THU 9:31 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
24 FRI	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
25 SAT 9:09 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
26 SUN	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	New 6:42 am
27 MON 8:56 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
28 TUE	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
29 WED 10:57 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
30 THU	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 32, 33 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Patt Harris - Santa Clara, CA

- ***First Robin** (8667) 10/18/97 (P. Harris) Semidouble pink/red eye; variable red on tips. Dark green, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature trailer**

Yvonne Lambert - Tottenham, Ontario, Canada

- ***Von's Friend Syl** (8668) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Single semidouble pale pink pansy/fuchsia frilled edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Von's Little Lady** (8669) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Double pink two-tone pansy. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Von's Marissa** (8670) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Single pink two-tone sticktite frilled pansy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Von's Soft Touch** (8671) 11/8/97 (Y. Lambert) Semidouble lavender pansy/darker-tipped top petals. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, hairy. **Semiminiature**

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

- ***Fantasy Freckles** (8672) 11/18/97 (F. Tinari) Double lavender-pink ruffled large/dark purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

- ***Phosphorescence** (8673) 11/18/97 (F. Tinari) Double lavender/fuchsia sparkle overlay, purple ruffled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Ruth Loomis - Flagstaff, AZ

- ***Connie Salland** (8674) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera rose-pink fluted/white stripe, variable green edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- ***Cynde** (8675) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Doctor Sandey** (8676) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark purple frilled/white stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped. **Large**
- ***Jeedle Jay** (8677) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera lavender frilled star/white stripe. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Sue Hoffmann** (8678) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark pink pansy/lavender stripe, darker fantasy. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***Susanny** (8679) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Single chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe, fantasy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. **Standard**



Showcase

Phosphorescence

Hybridized by:

F. Tinari

Standard

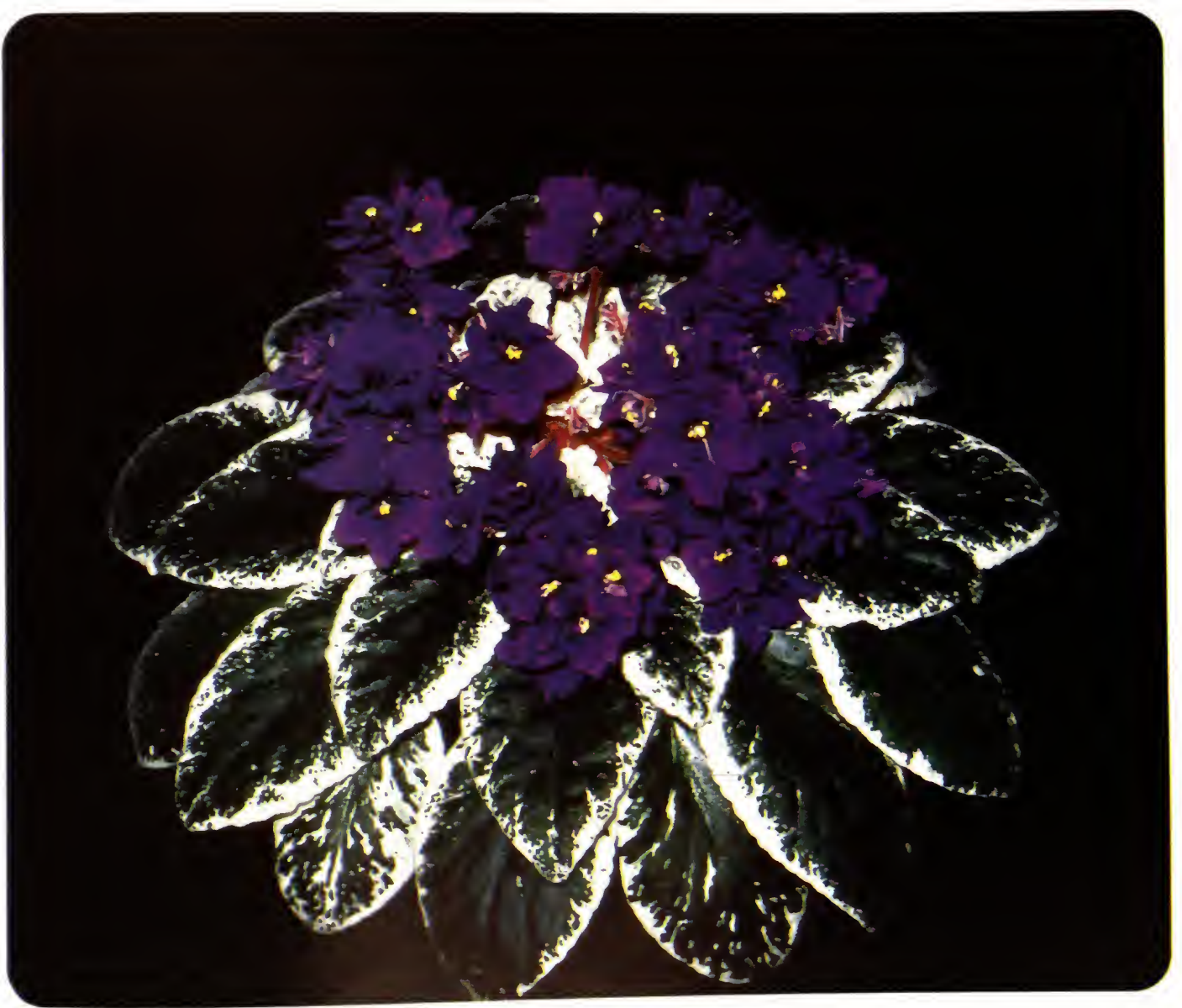


Rebel's Astro Spinner

Hybridized by:

R. Bann





'Sapphire Halo'

AVS of Canada

1997 National Show

Exhibited by: Ernie Elias

Hybridized by: G. Boone

Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

CHIMERAS

by W.S. Marchant
South Africa

The Oxford dictionary defines the word "chimera" as: "An organism containing genetically different tissues formed by grafting or mutation."

Normally, an African violet reproduces by means of leaf propagation because it consists of one genetic structure. Chimeras, however, are a different matter; because they are mutants the structure consists of two genetic arrangements. Propagation of chimeras is not difficult. To produce a chimera requires techniques that take longer to produce another plant.

I think the simplest way to explain the genetic structure of a chimera is to use the "water pipe method". The normal African violet has a genetic structure in which the water flows through the pipe. With a chimera, the structure is similar to one pipe fitted inside a larger pipe, allowing for the flow of two different fluids, one through the smaller pipe and the second fluid between the two pipes.

Most plantlets form on the outer edge of the cut stalk. With a normal variety of African violet, this produces a plantlet similar to the parent. Because there are two different genetic structures producing the chimera, it does not produce a replica, (although on very rare occasions a replica may be produced from a leaf).

There are two basic methods to produce a chimera.

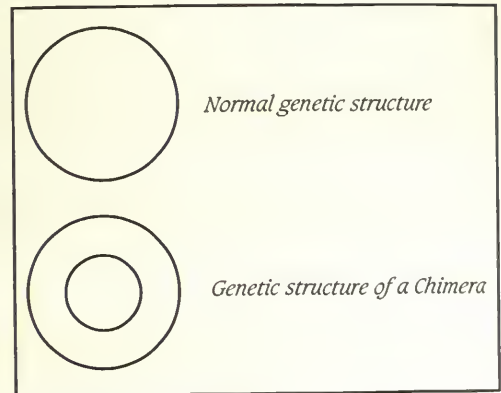
1. Crown removal

This method entails cutting the crown out of the center of the African violet. Using a sharp knife, cut the crown from the center, leaving at least one row of leaves on the stump of the plant. Transplant the removed center in normal AV potting soil.



Crown Removal

In time, new small crowns (plantlets) will appear around the edges of the cut stump. Having the row of leaves on the stump of the plant helps to propagate the new crowns. When these



new crowns are approximately 30mm tall, remove them with a sharp knife and transplant in African violet soil. Repeat this procedure as the stump develops new crowns.

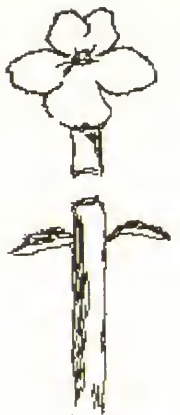
2. Peduncle Propagation

Remove a fresh peduncle from the African violet (chimera). Below the blossom and bud you will notice two small leaves attached to the peduncle, known as "bloom leaves".

Cut and remove the blossom and buds from above the "bloom leaves", then cut the peduncle approximately 25mm below the bloom leaves. Pot the peduncle in African violet soil and allow to grow. The new plant will grow from the axil between the leaf and the side of the peduncle.

When the plantlet is approximately 25 - 30mm tall, remove from the peduncle and transplant into African violet soil, treating it as you would any other AV plant.

From experience, I have found that the crown removal method is easier and more quickly produces an African violet chimera. The peduncle method takes longer.



Blossom and bud removal

Reprinted with permission from Usambara Violet Association publication, South Africa

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Dave Jarvis from Australia advises:

"Growing gesneriads is easy. It's growing them well that is the hard part. Most specimens will grow quite happily if given the basics of warmth, moisture, light and an open growing medium. But if we want to grow them to perfection, we need to acquire three things to enable us to nurture the plants to maturity. These essentials are Perception, Patience and Perseverance. We need to learn the signs plants give to tell us they are less than happy with something or other. Patience is needed to give the things we try a chance to work. And perseverance is required to keep trying when things don't turn out the way we had planned.

Now that I have taken to hybridizing I know I am going to need all three of these attributes in increasing measure. There is perhaps one other thing I could use. Just wish me good luck!!!"

As you can see, I'll be presenting advice from many areas of the country and world. If you try any of the following, please experiment with only a couple of plants. When you read this next letter, please keep in mind that Elvin McDonald was only a high school sophomore when he co-founded AGGS.

Nathanael Simonsson writes from Sweden:

"Although I am 16, I am experienced with gesneriads and some other plants. I've grown plants since I was 13 and I've learned much in these few years. When I began growing gesneriads many of my plants didn't thrive well. Many didn't grow much; they became like miniatures with yellowish leaves and would never bloom. It took up to 2 years to get a *Saintpaulia* in bloom from leaf cuttings! Many of my cuttings didn't work, instead they "went to heaven" (died)! I wished then that I knew the best soil-mix and how much water to give them and how to keep those cuttings alive! But now I know what to do with cuttings, using the experiences in trying many methods. I found the best method was to make a "glasshouse" of a plastic bag with a glass-shelf or anything similar to put on the box to keep them warm and wet, but not wet enough to rot! With this method about 90% will begin to grow and become big and wonderful plants!

"About the soil-mix, I tried many different mixtures with many *Chirita* plants, and found this mix the best, a real winner!

1/3 cup coffee-ump (used coffee grounds)

2 cups perlite

2 cups compost or small pieces of old leaves - (Dale advises pasteurize it!)

4 cups vermiculite

10 cups coco-fiber (also sold in the US as coco brix)

"This mixture has good drainage, and when watering this mix will be wet fast. When the plant has drunk the water, the soil will be dry again. Its roots seem to do better than in other soils, and the plant will grow faster and become a very handsome plant! I also recommend you use wicks of any synthetic material.

"Before I stop here, I must say, I find rosette chiritas much easier to grow and get blooming than saintpaulias here in Sweden! Good luck with growing gesneriads!"

Pat Addison from Alaska advises:

"One thing I wish I had learned, and I still forget at times, is that you can't own every gesneriad in the world. If I can't keep up with watering and grooming, the plants suffer. It seems every time my plant room gets crowded, I have problems with mildew or insects. I also wish I had heeded the advice to quarantine any new plants. I've battled soil mealy bugs, thrips, and cyclamen mites more than once. I now quarantine for 3 or 4 months. Then I inspect the plant, including the roots, thoroughly, before it enters my plant room."

Aneita Richardson from California tells us:

"I wish I had known more about specific soil pH for some of the different gesneriads. For example, chiritas, especially *C. eburnea*, need some addition of lime (I use dolomite) to the potting mix. *Streptocarpus* seem to benefit from the addition of a little lime also. I've lost a lot of streps because the soil went very sour. I learned the hard way, I did!"

Send me your gesneriad advice and you may see it in this column!

Run For Cover

Grown & Hybridized by: *K. Stork*

Large





B-Man Surprise

Exhibited & Hybridized by: B. Curcuruto

AVS of Canada 1997 National Show

Standard Trailer

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

FOG OR MIST BUT NEVER RAIN

Today we have rain! You know it never rains in sunny California! It's December 5, and when you read this it will be glorious spring here in California. This liquid- sunshine will insure wildflowers like you have never seen before. (Just in time for the Sacramento Convention too.)

May I ask how was your holiday season? Mine was just super. By the way, did you know that the greatest gift

you can give your fellow hobbyist is a gift of a plant they have been searching for. Make someone happy today, give them the name of the grower of that plant.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my reply, or use my E-Mail address and always return the postage to the person sending you a plant or leaves.

See you in Sacramento!

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Adeline Krogman	Christina	Double Blue Boy	Holly Go Lightly	Maroon Frost	Park Avenue	Rosie Lou	Tinted Snow
Africa	Cinderella (Flower Pot)	Double Dutchess	Holly Peach	Martha Louise	Parisienne	Rowena	Top Notch
Aglimer	Cinderella's Slipper	Double Mini Orchid	Hood Wink	Mary	Paul's Pazzazz	Royal Heart	Tribe
Albert II	Cinnamon Twist	Double Pink Cloud	Hot Lips	Mary Ann	Peepers	Sailor Girl	Triple Threat
Alice Marie	Circus Circus	Double Seafoam	Hot Touch	Mary Lou	Penguin	Sailor's Dream	Tye Dyed
American	Circus Clown	Double Uncle Bob	Ice Fantasy	Maverick Young Love	Peppermint	Santa Fe Trail (Fredette)	Unpredictable
Amethyst	Clackamas	Dresden China	Illini Deb	May Dance	Peppermint Fog	Sarava	Valeria
Anne Sloombe	Surprise	Dupont Blue	Illini Gem	Melody	Pilgrim Maid	Sea Foam	Vibrant Val
Arabesque	Clipper	Dutchman	Indian Summer	Melodie Frances	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sea Grape	Victoria
Artic Blizzard	Colibre	Easter Egg	Innocent Flirtation	Mermaid	Pink Beauty	Sea Gull	Viking
Aunt Jemina	Columbella	Eileen	Interlude	Merry Christmas	Pink Dresden	Sea Queen	Viva
Autumn Russett	Confessions	Eleanor	Ivory Venus	(Cramer)	Pink Geneva	Sea Shell	Vulcan's Treasure
Baker's Hot Lips	Constance Hansen	Elsie	Jealous Pink	Michelle	Pink Girl	Sequoia	Wanderlust
Ballet Candy	Constance Hansen	Emma Laehr	Jennifer	Mighty Mini	Pink Philly	Shannon Renee	Wham Bang
(Rhapsodie)	Supreme	Emperor Wilhelm	Joanne	Millie Blair	Pink Time	Sheryl's Renee	What Now
Bee Tee Lee	Coon Valley	Ema	Joann	Minako	Pink Wasp	Shine Boy	Whirlaway
Belle's Spring Song	Copper Tips	Fairy Image	Joy Pink	Mini Minx	Pistachio	Silver Anniversary	Whirlaway Sport
Bernice	Copy Cat	Fantasy Lou	Kay Russell	Miriam Steele	Pretty Please	Silver Flute	Whisper Valley
Berry Splash	Coral Cascade	Festival	Kilauea Sport	Miss Beautiful	Priscilla	Silver Wings	White Feather
Betty's Cindy Darlene	Coral Glo	Fisher's Anne Marie	Kiss't	Miss Liberty	Purple Crest	Skagit Ambassador	White Lace
Black Gold	Coral Radiance	Floral Fantasy	Krista Lynn	Miss Winscon	Purple Star	Sky Magic	White Lady
Black Waves	Coral Reef	Fox Run	Lacy Laizer	Modern Jewell	Radiant Star	Snow Drops	White Pride Supreme
Blazing	Coral Tips	Fred. Strawberry Ripples	Lady Catherine	Mohawk Trail	Rainbow's Bantam	Snow Flake	White Wedgewood
Blue Boquet	Cordelia	Fred. Sugar Blues	Lady Luck	Monaco	Neon Glo	Snow Prince	White Whisper
Blue Dart	Corpus Christie	Fred. Twilight Fantasy	Lady Mounbatten	Moonbeams	Rainbow's Black Forest	Snow Queen	W's Buckboard Bounce
Blue Nymph (Standard)	Cotton Bowl	Frosty	Lavender Lady	MoonMoths	Rainbow's Showboat	Snow Trailer	Wrangler's Campfire
Blue Reverie	Crazy Quilt	Galatic Star	Lavender Love	Moon Silver	Rainbow's Tequila	Spangles	Wrangler's Double Pleasure
Blue Skies	Creole Belle	Geneva Rose	LeBon Creole	Mountain Blue Boy	Sunrise	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Blue Velvet	Crimsony	Georgette	Legacy	Mountain Wildflowers	Raphael	Sport of Crimson Frost	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Bobby	Crown of Red	GiGi	Like Wow	My Frizz	Raspberry Frills	Star of India	Wrangler's Lavender
Brass Band	Curley Q	Gilded Strawberry	Lilac Puff	My Spoon	Ravenscrest	Star Trailer	Lasso
Bryte Angel	Cyndy	Glacier Point	Lilac Elme (Behnke)	Neon Rainbow	Ravishing Ruffles	Stormy Night	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Bryte Bells	Dainny Doll	Glow Baby	Lilbel	Ness' Minnesota Splash	Red and White	Sugar Plum Fairy	Wrangler's Moonshine
Bryte Glitter	Daisy Doll	Gorgeous One	Lilth Lassie	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Red Carnation	Summer Spice	Wrangler's Partner
Bryte Tips	Dallas Pride	Granger's Fashionaire	Little Dee	Night Fever	Renee	Suncoast Pink Giant	Wrangler's Painted
Bryte Sensation	Dar Devil	Gr's Blue Fashionaire	Little Doe	Notseman	Reverie	Suncoast Wedgewood	Desert
Bubblin' Over	Dark Eyes	Gr's Jim Dandy	Little Lou	Nymph Fly	Rhapsodie Candy	Sunday Morning	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Bulls Eye	Darth Vader	Gr's Venetian Lace	Little Maroon	Odyssey	Rhapsodie GiGi	Sweet Honesty	Wr's Ricochet Romance
Bunny Hop	Dates Fanfare	Great Find	Little Rascal	Ohio Sunset	Rhapsodie Venus	Sweet Lady	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Buttercup	Deep Sea Treasure	Great Scott	Little Red Wagon	Old Blue Eyes	Rhinestone Cowboy	Sweet Lime	Wrangler's Roundup
Butterflies	Delphina (Fredette)	Green Glo	Lucky Duck	(Mendoza)	Ripped Romance	Targeteer	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Butterfly White	Diana Ross	Gypsy Charm	Lucky Stripe	On Edge	Risque	Teen Wonder	Wrangler's Wanderin
California Cascade	Dib's Thrill	Half and Half	Luxury	Optimara Cherokee Girl	Rob's Antique Rose	The Parsons Little	Star
Candy Dandy	Dingbat	Handkerchief	Lyndy Lou	Optimara Pennsylvania	Rob's Sailor Bill	Pammy	Wrangler's Yankee
Candy Lips Improved	Dippity Do	Hawley's Katy Did	Lynn	Orchid Beauty	Rococo Pink	The Parson's Ruffles	Yodler
Caribbean	Donna Lee	Heavenly Halo	Mamoth Blue	Orchid Ripples	Rosalynn Carter	The Parson's Wife	Zaca Roome
Catherine	Dorothy Gray	Highbrow	Manhattan	Pam's Potpourri	Roseberry	Tidecrest	Zippy (Baker)
Cherokee Rose	Do's Jean	Holly Dolly		Paragon	Rose Frost	Timber Top	Zuni

Electronic Violets for Every Computer

by Ellen Wass Beckerman



Most of us who surf the Internet have at one time or another run across difficulty exchanging documents with other computer users. There are many reasons for these problems, but typically they are: 1) Cross platform issues such as Macintosh to PC computers; 2) Users don't have the same application that the document was created in, for example, you create a document in the latest version of MicroSoft Word™, but I only have QuarkXPress™; 3) Graphics: I can read PICT and JPEG, but you send me GIF and neither of us has a graphics translator; 4) Fonts: I don't have the font that the document was created in so it's barely readable with my default fonts; and lastly, 5) Compression/Decompression problems: you use ZIP IT™ to compress a picture and I only have STUFF IT™ to expand it with and the file doesn't expand properly so I can't read it.

Don't Give Up—It is Possible to Read Documents Created on Another Computer!

To avoid those problems listed above, many people are switching to a relatively new format called "Portable Document Format." Commonly referred to as a "pdf", these documents can be created and read by most computers. (Macintosh, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, OS2 Warp to name a few.)

Of Course, There are a Few Catches...

BUT NOT ALL THAT MANY...portable documents can be created from any major word processing program such as MicroSoft Word™, or page layout program such as Adobe Pagemaker™ or QuarkXPress™, using a program called Adobe Acrobat™ which sells for approximately \$200. *I'm not advocating that you run right out and buy this program unless you want to create portable documents. The truly impressive part of this program is its shareware application called Adobe Acrobat Reader™.*

Adobe Acrobat Reader™

Is available free of charge from Adobe's web site "www.adobe.com". It allows users to read portable document files. There's a wealth of information on the web today that's available for reading in this format!

To download Adobe Acrobat Reader™, enter the address shown above into your web browser. Once you are there, select the type of computer you are using from the pop-up menus. It's very important to select the proper type, such as Macintosh or Windows 95. Follow the instructions on the web site to download the appropriate file. *Note: This download will take from 20 minutes up to an hour depending upon the speed of your computer. It's a little confusing to choose the correct file to download. If you want a step by step instruction sheet, e-mail me at the address listed below and I'll be happy to send one to you. Be sure to tell me what kind of operating system you have. The AVSA office will also have copies of the instruction sheets. Send your request, including a SASE, to the Beaumont, TX address.*

Once You Have Acrobat Reader

You too, can open "pdf"s without difficulty with compression, fonts, pictures or applications. It's simpler to open the Reader application and then open the portable document file. It's faster if you copy the portable document file to your hard disk, instead of opening it on-line or from a diskette.

Where Can I Get Portable Documents to Read?

Many web sites offer "pdf"s for downloading, usually, so you can read and print out additional information. In the future, we hope to have some portable documents on the AVSA web site. In the meantime, if you contact me, I would be happy to share with you a portable document of the African violets that I am currently growing. I encourage everyone to try to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader™, portable documents can be a lot of fun!

Ellen is an Apple Macintosh computer consultant who loves violets, the Internet, her husband, her garden and her cat! The programs mentioned here are for entertainment and informational purposes only. They do not in any way constitute an endorsement by AVSA. Ellen's e-mail address is: violets@webnc.com



Spring Chores

by Sue Hodges • Australia

Spring is about the busiest time of the year for violet and gesneriad growers. There are so many chores that need to be done that there doesn't seem to be time to get through them all! And there are so many other plants, in the garden and fernery, that are crying out for attention too.

Now that the weather is warming, it is the perfect time to pot your violets, especially if you have been putting it off during the winter. Plantlets can be separated from the mother leaf and potted separately and will grow quickly as the nights become warmer. I find that it is the cool nights that slow my plants down, the days are seldom a problem.

The plants that have been in their pots for some time will benefit from a repot in new mix. It is recommended that you repot every 12 months but mine wait longer than that, I'm afraid. Any plant that is a possible show plant needs to be checked to ensure it is correctly potted. The rule of thumb is that a plant should be three times the diameter of the pot, i.e. a 30 cm plant goes into a 10 cm pot, and so on. If your show plants have outgrown their pots, repot them now, allowing for extra growth.

Older plants that have had leaves removed and are looking like palm trees can be rejuvenated now. Remove the plant from the pot and carefully tease the potting mix from the roots. Scrape the trunk gently with a blade to remove the scars that form where leaves have been removed. Roots will form on this trunk when you repot. Trim the roots so that the plant can be lowered into the pot with the crown level with the rim of the pot and fill with new mix. Water gently to settle the mix around the plant and keep the mix just moist until new growth begins.

If the neck or trunk is too long to repot successfully you can strip the leaves from the plant to leave a crown and cut the roots off completely, leaving a stem about 2 cms long on the crown. Fill a small pot with mix, make a hole in the center to take the stem and settle the mix around it. Water sparingly until the crown is firm in the pot and roots have formed on the stem. Then treat the plant as any other young plant. If you are nervous and feel you may lose the plant, enclose the potted crown in a plastic bag or a terrarium for a couple of weeks to increase the humidity.

Spring is an excellent time to put down leaves as the growth rate is greatest during the warm weather. Leaves put down now will have babies before the really hot summer days hit.

There is plenty to do with the other gesneriads. All rhizomes and tubers that have been dormant over winter need to be potted up. I usually pot *Achimenes* rhizomes in September with *smithianthas* being left a little later as I find they rot if potted too early. I use half Debco African Violet and Gloxinia Mix and half my violet mix as I find my plants dry out too quickly if I use violet mix. It just depends on your conditions.

When potting rhizomes, I fill the pot to within about 3 cms of the rim, place the rhizomes on top of the mix and then fill the pot. Water very sparingly until shoots appear as the rhizomes can rot if over watered. If you pot in damp mix you may not need to water at all for a time. I use this method for all rhizomes. I would plant about 5 or 6 *Achimenes* or *Eucodonia* rhizomes to a 10 cm pot. *smithianthas* have larger rhizomes and produce larger plants so that a single rhizome can fill a 10 cm pot and will probably need one that is larger.

Tubers need care, also, to prevent rotting. I usually leave mine until they show tiny shoots. Then, depending on the size of the tuber, I place them into a pot that will allow for good growth without having too much damp mix around the tuber. You can always pot up later, if necessary. I put mix in the base of the pot, sit the tuber on the top and fill in around the tuber, leaving the top exposed. Once growth has begun you can fill the pot if you wish. I find this the best method to guard against rotting the tuber. Once again, water sparingly until growth has started.

I always leave the tops of miniature sinningias exposed and find I get better shoots that way. I have a number that went dormant during winter and I will need to water them carefully so that I don't lose the tubers. Some can take a long time to shoot. I like to repot all my mini sinningias at the beginning of spring to ensure plenty of blooms by show time.

If you haven't run out of time after all that repotting, there are all the baskets of hanging gesneriads to attend to. They would probably appreciate some fresh mix too! I'm told that the best time to repot *Streptocarpus* is in autumn, but I didn't get many of mine done so they are waiting for me, too.

So, don't forget your supplies of mix, clean pots, wicks and all the other gear you will need. If you have as much repotting as I have, you are going to be busy indeed.

Reprinted with permission from the
"African Violet News", Official publication of the African
 Violet - Gesneriad Society of N.S.W., Inc.

SOME THOUGHTS ON SEED

by John Beaulieu, Canada

When I show my slide program at horticultural societies, I am surprised at how many members have never tried growing gesneriads from seed. They all start garden plants from seed, many of which they start indoors under lights.

Those of us who have grown gesneriads from seed, know that they are easy to sow and grow, but yet most of these plant enthusiasts do not even think about trying to set seed.

I have always been fascinated at the prospects of hybridizing gesneriads. That thrill of waiting for the first blooms of new crosses, to see if you have anything truly different or exciting. Actually, I find that most general horticulturalists don't realize that even if you self-pollinate a flower on a hybrid African violet or other gesneriad, you will still get a variety of different seedlings, sometimes quite different from the parent plant. The only way to get a true duplication of the parent is by vegetative reproduction such as in the case of African violets, putting a leaf down.

Should you grow plants from a seed of a hybrid, remember, do not give them the name of the parent as they are not true clones. They should be called "seedlings" or "seedlings of...". In the case of an outstanding seedling you may wish to name it.

Unless you have a few spare plant stands, you will not be able to grow all the seedlings that you will have if you sow all your seed. Some seed pods could have hundreds or even thousands of seeds. You must learn to grow on only the healthiest seedlings.

We do not need new varieties if they are poor growers. Even if you are not a "serious AV grower" and only have a limited number of plants on window sills etc., you still want to have plants that are strong, easy growers, bloom readily, and offer pleasing blooms.

You don't have to sow all your seed. Besides sharing with friends, you can store the extra seed in the refrigerator. I find that the little containers that 35 mm camera film comes in are especially good for this. Seed can remain viable for years this way. (Don't forget to label your containers though!) For me, this is a very fortunate fact, as I was without any plants for a few years. But, I had stored some seed in the refrigerator from my *Streptocarpus* hybridizing. This was seed from crosses of various Jonathon Ford hybrids crossed back to species. After 3

years in storage, I had at least 80% germination. Before long my plant shelves were full of seedlings again. It usually takes about 5 - 6 months to have flowering plants from seed, although you may get the odd faster blooming plant - this is always a good trait to develop.

I sow all gesneriad seed in 4" pots of soilless mix (peat moss, vermiculite and perlite), cover with a plastic cup to create a mini greenhouse effect. The seed is sown on the surface of the mix, not covered. I start with fairly moist mix and also spray the seeds with a seaweed mix that helps germination and also provides nutrients to the seedlings. The plastic cover seems to keep things moist enough until the new seedlings are well established. Any further watering required during the beginning is done from the bottom so as not to disturb the seeds and new seedlings. I like to separate them into their own pots before they get too crowded, usually after the first leaves are about 1/2" long.

After a few months you can start to see which seedlings are the better growers. Some grow very fast, some may be large plants and some may be more compact. Leaf shape and color can vary. All these characteristics to consider even before they begin to flower!

I have one seedling which I have called 'Thrills', partly because the throat stripes are the color of the chewing gum of the same name and because of all the thrilling little ways that it starts new plants. Very often on a flower stem, as the flower starts to fade, new plantlets start to form and another flower stem continues from there. These new plantlets can be cut off and rooted. Broken tips of leaves will also start new plantlets. I am growing seed from selfed flowers of 'Thrills' to see if any of these reproductive traits continue or even increase.

There are always new things to be discovered, and growing hybrids from seed (of any gesneriad) is a fun way to enjoy this hobby. Who knows what new, improved variety that you might come up with. Imagine the thrill of a variety of yours winning in a show or pictured in a national magazine. There are so many ways to enjoy gesneriads. Have you given growing from seeds a try?

*Reprinted with permission from
"Chatter", Journal of the AVS of Canada*

Regional Reviews

compiled by Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Dr.
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

In this issue we begin a new annual feature: regional reviews by AVSA members. Our goal is to provide more information on growing violets focusing on challenging conditions. Each reviewer has tips to share and favorite plants to recommend. This issue features five reviews to be followed in May by a final set of reviews from Japan, Florida, California, Colorado, Minnesota and Canada.

*Our lead review is done by **June Colwell** from the Hunter Valley African Violet Society, **Australia**. June is well known for growing exceptional violets, and won Best in Show at their most recent annual show. (June had help on the fertilizer portion of her review. Thanks to Richard Trout for his explanation of the Australian/American dichotomy.):*

"I am so pleased to be included in this project. I hope I will be of some help. My violet room is on the ground floor of my home. The temperature is usually quite stable except during extremely hot weather — at these times I mist the plants 2 to 3 times a day. Humidity is 40-60% and the temperature 40-80 F. During the winter I encase the stands in clear plastic sheeting to keep them warm. Painters drop sheets are quite good for this.

"I make my own potting mix. As I have rather a large collection, this proves to be most economical. My potting mix consists of:

- 3 parts peat moss
- 1 1/2 parts perlite
- 1 1/2 parts vermiculite
- 1 part charcoal

This makes a nice, light mixture which works well with wick watering.

"For growing of leaves I use the Texas Watering method. When I separate the babies from their mum, I introduce the wick watering method and continue with this all the way up to and including show plants.

"The only fertilizer I use is Kenrose. The Kenrose label indicates concentrations of 4.6-1.6-3.6 nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium with traces of boron, magnesium, zinc, copper, molybdenum and iron. We use this at the rate recommended on the label

which is 1 ml to 1 litre (or 1 in 1000). Note that on Australian labels, NPK is expressed as percentages (I believe this is a percentage of weight by volume but couldn't confirm this from any of our labels), where as in America you use an older method which measures the phosphoric acid (P205) and potash (K20) contents. To convert, we multiply a US P by .44 and a US K by .83. Using this, Kenrose fertilizer would convert to 4.6-3.6-4.3.

"I maintain my lights 12 hours each day, except when preparing for show, when I increase them 1 hour each week until I reach 15 hours. After show I decrease them 1 hour each week until back to 12 hours once again.

"My most successful plants have been: 'Ness' Sizzlin' Pink', 'Ocean Eyes' (truly a great performer), 'Arapahoe', 'Picasso', 'Colonial Wilmington', 'The King', trailers: 'Rainbow's Weeping Clown', 'Snowy Trail', semi-miniatures: 'Precious Pink' (truly precious), 'Ness' Crinkle Blue'.

"I really love my violets. I would be lost without these truly beautiful friends and spend many happy hours with them. I find them to be the most interesting and rewarding hobby I have ever had and I am sure many of you share this with me."

*From Australia we travel to **Virginia**, home of **Alice Grundy**, our next regional reviewer. Alice is well-known to many of us for the exceptional 'Tiny Wood Trail' she exhibited and it won Best in Show at the 1995 St. Louis national convention. This plant will be remembered by all for years to come, with its 500+ blooms displayed atop perfectly formed miniature trailing foliage. Here are some of Alice's growing tips:*

"I grow my violets in my daughter's former 9 x 12 bedroom that is now my violet haven. I started with a floracart, then soon increased to two more stands made by my handy husband. He also made a work cabinet for potting and grooming with a light above and shelves below. The light is in perfect position for grooming for show.

"I grow many varieties and sizes of plants, but, I really prefer miniature and semiminature violets and trailers, only because of space and easy handling.

"All my plants are grown in Pro Mix BX with a little extra perlite and charcoal mixed in. I also alternate my fertilizers, using 20-20-20 and 12-36-14 and fish emulsion once in a while. Near show time I will use a bloom booster. Wick watering is used on **all** my plants.

"In the last few years I've been entering three or four shows a year. It has been really hard on my plants and me, with having only a small collection with which to work. 'Tiny Wood Trail' is a plant I will always be thankful that I kept over the years, even when it was hardly ever ready for my club show! It is a hard plant to grow to a large size but in 1995 it was at its peak, and it was worth the wait. 'Milky Way Trail' is much easier to grow large in less time. I like growing my trailers in larger, deeper pots. I feel it is necessary to grow them large with an nice round top.

"Over the years I have found growing my plants from leaves make better show plants. Watching them grow from little starters into a beautiful show winner is all the pleasure I could want."

Next we have a review from Ohio, Pat Hancock, hybridizer of the "Buckeye" series of violets and advanced AVSA Judge. (Remember 'Buckeye's Cranberry Sparkler' in the May 1997 AVM?) Pat is an experienced violet grower; we hope to see more of her hybrids very soon.

"My violet-growing area is in my basement. The area is heated with baseboard electric, and I have an air-conditioning unit in a window.

"I have never measured the humidity, but judging by the amount of perspiration on my brow when I work there, I would say it is plenty high. I run a dehumidifier 24 hours per day and it is full daily. I use this water as much as possible to water my violets. Temperature is maintained as close to 70 degrees as possible.

"I wick water totally which accounts for much of the high humidity. My wicks are made of cut old nylon hose. I have tried many different types of wicks and I like these best. They seem to pull just the right amount of moisture and don't dry out unless the water level gets too low.

"I alternate fertilizers. I use Peters 20-20-20; Peters African Violet; Peters Bloom; and Rapid-Gro with bloom booster, and once a month, plain water. I use 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of each. I also give an occasional misting of leaves with 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of fish emulsion. I mist with plain water also.

"I have tried many different soils and soil mixtures over the years. Recently, I did some testing of commercial African violet soils for my AV club. At the present time, I

use 10 heaping cups of Volkman, 1/2 bag of horticultural charcoal, and 5 cups of washed perlite. I am very happy with this mix. I sterilize all of my soil (not perlite or charcoal) in a 400° oven for 1 hour. Some people say this hurts the content of the soil as to bacteria, etc. I cannot tell that it damages the soil in any way, and the strong root systems on my plants tell me that they like what I do, a lot. There are a lot more soil mealy bugs out there than any of us are willing to admit, and I have seen very few since I have been sterilizing my soil.

"I grow under fluorescent lights, 1 cool white and 1 grow-lux, wide spectrum. Cool white lights of 40 watts intensity are becoming harder and harder to find, and I will probably go to two grow-lux. My bulbs are ten to eleven inches above the plants, and they are normally on for 12 hrs. per day and increased gradually to 15 hrs. per day prior to a show.

"I make my own leaf rings out of plastic dinner plates. I cut a hole in the middle of the plate slightly larger than the diameter of the pot, leaving four tabs sticking into the hole to hold the plate on the pot. These help to train the leaves without the use of rubber bands that don't behave well for me. I make small ones out of plastic saucers for young plants. These get the leaves started growing the way I want them and don't take up any extra space. They serve the purpose of a flared top pot.

"The plants that I have chosen to report on are as follows:

"'Colonial Werris Creek' (Hams-Australia)

This plant grew beautifully for me. It needs 20-20-20 to keep the edges of the leaves from haloing. It has gorgeous large white stars with a pink eye. It blooms early and easily. It grows quite large, blooms are held on strong stems high above the foliage with five or more per stem.

"'Colonial Port Lincoln' (Hams-Australia)

"This plant grows very symmetrically with nice dark green foliage and a semidouble TRUE blue frilled blossom. The pollen sacs are very prominent and the blossoms have a "dewey" look that I love in a violet blossom. They are also quite large, as all of the blossoms on the Colonials seem to be. The blooms are held high above the foliage, last a long time and retain their good color to the end. There are four or more blossoms per stem. This plant does not get as large as some of the other Colonials, but is a good sized standard.

"I have about 30 of the Colonial hybrids and feel they are well worth adding to your collection both for the symmetry of the foliage and the beautiful bloom. I have heard several people say that they proved unstable for them, but I have not had that problem at all.

"'Buckeye Ballerina' (Hancock)

"This is one of my own seedlings, so I am probably not the person who should be critiquing it ("Proud Mama,

etc...") I tend to love large frilled or ruffled blossoms and variegated foliage, and this one pleases me a great deal. There are things about it that I would improve, but we can say that about almost any plant. It has very large double ruffled or frilled blossoms of lavender-pink with raspberry and purple fantasy markings. I would like the bloom stems to be stronger in order to hold the large blooms higher above the medium green and cream variegated foliage that grows very easily on its own in a perfect rosette. There are three or more very large blooms per stem, and it grows to standard size for me."

From the midwest we travel to southeast Texas and the hot and humid home of Dale Martens. As well as being our "Gesneri-advice" columnist, Dale is also a very discriminating grower of violets with lots of sage advice to share.

"I moved 300 plants from California to Texas, in March of 1996. The move adversely affected my plants. Five to six months after the move my violets stopped growing. Then I began to see them die. I was using the same fertilizers and commercial soil as in California. The only difference was the water. Texas club members Lawrence and Elsie Pope used Sunshine Mix #4, and plants I'd given them were twice the size of my plants. It lists 55-65% Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss in addition to perlite, dolomite limestone, gypsum, and a wetting agent. I mix one part of that soil with 1/4 to 1/2 part of additional perlite for wicking purposes. This worked and saved my remaining plants. The lesson here is that my previous tried-and-true soil and fertilizers in combination with my new water was lethal perhaps due to mineral combinations or pH. If you buy a plant from the AVSA convention and don't change the soil, you may lose that plant.

"I use a variety of fertilizers at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water. My 4 light stands are on from 8:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. I enter too many shows to fiddle with increasing and decreasing the amount of light.

"The South has 90+ degree temperatures for months, yet we can get freezing temperatures in the winter. I run the air conditioner from April through October. You'd think this would dry out the house but the humidity reads 60% while it's 70-100% outdoors. For powdery mildew, a serious problem for many southerners, Ed Cook from Country Road Violets advised using Phyton 27. It works!!!

"Plant evaluations: A good friend gave me leaves from the Australian Colonial series. I think they are similar to Optimara violets in that they grow best in a window or far away from the center of the light stand. My favorite is 'Colonial Whyte Yarcowie' (Hams). The description reads: 'Semidouble white, large. Medium green foliage. Standard.' That hardly describes the perfect symmetry, large, pure

white blossoms and rich green leaves. It is the FASTEST growing violet I've ever had. Another great plant is 'Colonial Tasman' (Hams). 'Semidouble medium lavender/blue fantasy. Dark green, large foliage. Standard.' The fantasy on this blossom is very heavy. It too, is a symmetrical grower."

We turn to the "Land of Enchantment" for our final review for this issue. Not only is Cal Iskra a veteran violet grower, but she also writes a good review as well! Her analysis of trying to grow violets in arid New Mexico is very enlightening. Enjoy!

"Greetings from the high desert city of Albuquerque, NM, elevation 1 mile. We love to grow violets but have discovered quite a few problems relating to our climate that must be overcome before the plants can achieve maximum beauty. Our annual rainfall averages 8" and the relative humidity often drops into the single digit range, especially during spring and summer. Evaporative air conditioning helps cool and put moisture into the air.

"How do we contend with these adverse conditions? We look for ways to increase humidity around the plants. For me this means growing standard plants in rather crowded conditions over pea gravel that can be dampened, misting often and wicking the violets to provide constant moisture in the soil. Even so, the problems of wicking can accelerate in this dry atmosphere. The water in the tubs evaporates rapidly, leaving an increased concentration of salts in the solution, and it becomes imperative to cut the amount of soluble fertilizer from 1/4 tsp. per gal. to 1/8 tsp. during the driest weather. Fertilizer salts also transpire more rapidly through the leaves, often collecting as dry salts at the ends of the leaf veins and causing more rapid deterioration of outer foliage. This requires more frequent repotting of plants. Since the alkali content in our tap water is slightly over 7, more frequent repotting of plants helps to restore a more balanced pH. I have not had good luck trying to slightly acidify the water.

"I grow under one cool-white and one wide spectrum fluorescent tube 8 to 12 inches from top of plant to tubes, depending on individual plant response. We seldom experience mildew in our arid climate.

"My potting mix is made up of equal parts Canadian sphagnum moss, vermiculite and perlite. This is mixed in a 4 gal. covered bucket with 2 cups horticultural charcoal added. Once mixed, I bring 2 qts. water to a boil and pour over all, then cover and allow to steam overnight, then it is ready to use.

"My first love is the semi-miniature violet. These take a slightly different approach, since the foliage is

generally thinner and transpires more rapidly. After trying many methods, they seem to do better for me when grown over a capillary mat. I usually fit an egg crate over a plant tray and then use two layers of matting over the egg crate, allowing the ends to fall into the tray, where an inch or more of fertilized water is stored. The matting must be moistened first and then it will draw up the solution and keep the pots moist as it evaporates and moistens the surrounding air. 1/8 tsp. of 20-20-20 per gallon with 1 drop of superthrive added maintains growth and flowering. To make sure of contact between pots and matting, I often place a short wick of 1 ply yarn through one of the holes in the bottom of the pot. This helps also if the matting inadvertently dries out. You then replenish the solution in the reservoir and pour a little water through the pots to re-establish good contact.

"An 11 X 16 tray holds from 6 to 8 minis or semis, easily. These are placed 6 to 8 inches from the lights which are on 12 hours a day except when getting ready for a show. At that time they are gradually increased to 15

hours. If we have unrelenting sunshine with never a cloud for months on end, the lights are reduced to 10 hours, since my plant room has a window and too much light will cause the leaves to bunch and bleach.

"The star of my light stands this year has been 'Moonsilk', a white and lavender semi-miniature from Sorano. The semi-dbl pansy blossoms keep coming in profusion and the foliage is very symmetrical in a nice green. Often our hot summer weather will cause multicolored blooms to revert to solid color, but 'Moonsilk' has retained it's lovely coloration.

"'Baby Darryl', by Hoover, is a semi-miniature that seems to stay small like a mini. But the dark green foliage contrasts beautifully with the pale pink two tone blossoms that last for a long time. A charmer.

"'Bob Serbin', from Brownlie, has been the most floriferous standard that I have grown in a long time. Never out of bloom, and a velvety dark red sticktite pansy with a white wire edge. Foliage is dark green with red backing.

THANK YOU!

We have received several additional donated items for the Saturday luncheon auction:

1. Shannon Ahlman of "The Violet Showroom" in Grand Island, Nebraska, will donate a box of nice starter plants.
2. Fran Taylor of Utah will donate an African violet database her husband developed to track African violet collections. It uses a Lotus approach, however, the dbf file can be used with any database program that can use or import a dbf file. e.g. Dbase. Contact me if you want additional specifications on this item. Also, we'll have information on it available at convention.
3. Carol Reynolds of Austin, Texas indicates she will donate a set of violet note cards featuring images of her violet drawings.
4. Lynn Lombard of Colfax, California will donate three "First Day of Issue" African violet stamp tote bags, navy blue background.
5. Herbal Garden Ceramics of Montara, California is

donating three very nice ceramic pots for African violets.

6. Pat Richards of Olathe, Kansas is offering a 1992 "Very Violet Barbie" for the auction. This doll is a real collector's item, and has a violet motif in her evening gown of very violet.
7. Sandy Officer of Minneapolis, MN has donated a 7x5 print of wild purple violets, numbered and signed by Raymond Wattenhofer, a local artist.

Remember, anyone donating items before March 15, 1998 will receive special notice in the souvenir booklet. To donate items, please contact me with a description of the item. Then, you can either bring the item with you to convention, or mail it to Barbara Elkin, Vintage Violets Chairman and Convention Chairman.

Thanks so much and see you in Sacramento! Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66062-3004, phone: 913-829-4258, fax: 913-829-4858, Email: patter257@aol.com



Convention Award Correction

Specified Awards - Amateur Division
Teen Thunder

\$10.00

Magic Knight AVS

VIOLETS BLOOM FOR MAGGIE

by Jean McCain
Route 1, Box 326
Mulberry, AR

My attraction for African violets must have began as a child. I remember being somewhat in awe of my mother's women friends who had the room and the leisure, or so I thought, to have African violets. I must have learned something from them, because I remember later rooting violet leaves. I laid them flat, cutting the veins, and fastened them to sand with hairpins. If I was lucky, tiny plants formed at each vein. I am sure few of these grew to blossom stage, because I cannot remember having many flowering plants.

I had heard, "Some people just do not have luck with violets." I knew with me it was just a loss of interest (and neglect) that caused my violet's demise. I must have made an impression on my daughter Jana, however, because she usually has a pot or two around, and for a holiday three years ago she gave me a lovely blooming plant of single to semidouble flowers in a lovely lavender. This plant has a habit of blooming on strong stems straight up from the foliage, and it's many blossoms earned it the nickname 'Lavender Cloud'.

I later obtained a deep purple with white edges on the large blossoms. It's very well formed, but it's habit of suckering and growing every which way soon earned it the nickname, 'Wild Purple'.

Retired now, with some free time, I decided to become serious about growing African violets. My trip to the county library was not very productive. The only address for the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was Knoxville, TN.

The only book available was Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet book, last copyright date in 1970. I kept it for about six weeks, reading it over and over. I drove long distance operators crazy trying to get a phone number for the AVSA in Knoxville!

At the library and during my local search and discussions, the name Maggie Lovett kept popping up. There is a belief among my friends that only a lucky few can grow violets. And everyone said, "Violets grow for Maggie Lovett!"

I had known Maggie for years. We went to the same church and Maggie had lived next door to my inlaws, and helped care for both of them in their later years. Maggie

lived in a big beautiful house that was over a hundred years old, on a large town lot with lots of shade trees and many flower beds.

I visited her with the admitted motive of seeing her violets and picking her brain. Being a modern woman, I fully believed that anything could be learned, and the mystique of the green thumb was actually knowing how to do something and caring enough to put that knowledge to use. Still, there was a nagging doubt. *Would violets ever really grow for me?*

Visiting with Maggie was such a pleasure. She loved violets and talking about them. She had sun porches built in several places, and violets grew everywhere.

Maggie did not buy potting mixtures or fertilizers. She used garden soil and leaf mold, mixed. Some of her pots were recycled cooking pans and some were beautiful ceramics.

She had few of the traditional problems with insects. Perhaps the soil she used contained natural controls. She told me about the time she found ants all over her favorite white violet.

"I was so disgusted. They just came right in the window and were all over it. I just picked up the Raid and sprayed it good. Then I put it out on the front porch and washed it with the hose and left it there all summer. (I am sure she gave it some water) That fall, it was so pretty, just full of blooms. I brought it inside and it bloomed all winter long."

She had about six varieties that really impressed me. My favorite had a large, clear blue, single bloom. She had a more traditional blue, with double petals, and a deep pink that was almost red, a white double, and a light pink. I begged leaves of all of them.

In search of a red violet, some friends once drove Maggie twenty five miles or so to a house where a woman grew and sold African violets. She later told me, "Well, I like my violets better than the ones she had, and she didn't have any new varieties." She continued to wish for a red, and for a yellow. She said she had seen one, years ago, but had never been able to find one again.

By looking for African violets on line, I found a list of AV clubs. I contacted Jo Ann Johnson, president of a club in Peoria, IL, who graciously sent me a magazine, and made notes through it so that I could be up to date as to who was still in business. I will always be grateful to her.

I soon found the AVSA page, and this, along with Jo Ann's help, got me off and running. I joined the AVSA. My first priority was finding a red and a yellow for Maggie.

I contacted Hortense Pittman, and she honestly told me about the yellow violets, that the color was sometimes enhanced by photographs, and although they were lovely, they were not as yellow as one might want yet. I ordered two from her, 'Moonlight Rays', and 'Alamo Sunshine'. I

ordered three reds, 'Sweetheart', 'Frills', and 'Dynasty'. I got 'Alamo Aztec', and 'Alamo Glow', and in the small ones, 'Teen Kiss' and 'Little Prize'. The first to bloom was 'Dynasty', and I prepared to take it to Maggie.

I called her number and it was disconnected! Was she sick? I called her son who told me she had just moved to a retirement center. I called the center, asked if she could have violets. The secretary laughed and said, "Yes." (As I said, Maggie is famous for her violets!)

I found her in a lovely room, furnished with some of her antiques, and almost felt I was in the living room at her home. Sitting on a table in a large ceramic pot was a collection of Maggie's violets. Someone had taken parts of three plants and planted them all in one pot! They didn't look like Maggie's violets. I remembered the beautiful display she always had, and my measly little starter plant, 'Dynasty', though bravely blooming its single bloom, did not look so good, either. I apologetically offered it to her. (It even seemed it's red glow had faded on the trip.)

Maggie had been despondent about having to leave her home, but her attendant cheered us up by telling us of an unusual place to buy violets, at a convenience store! She was raving about one "green" violet. She kept talking and I heard her say the name was 'Wintergreen'. (I am sure now I just missed seeing Hortense's famous 'Winnergreen'!)

When I got to the store, 'Winnergreen' was gone, but I bought eight other plants. The owner had bought a collection in Texas, and these were from Volkmann's Nurseries.

It had been suggested that I not bring Maggie more violets; that it might be too much work for her. The next time I visited her she was doing fine, adjusting to having her meals prepared and people to visit with. Her window had an eastern exposure, and the violets I had seen before were a lovely mass of foliage and blooms. Even 'Dynasty' wore five blossoms and more leaves. I asked her if it was too big a chore to take care of the violets, and she said, "No! That's a real red and I want to keep it. When I get to where I can't take care of it, I'll let you know."

Meanwhile, I had cleaned a lot of debris out of the basement. It has two windows, and the sun shines into

them. Then, I built shelves with grow lights. My purchased plants were doing well. The leaves I had put down from Maggie's violets seemed very stubborn to me. Some of them rooted and grew slowly. Some just seemed to sit there; others finally got large enough to pot up.

One morning I went to the basement, and a plant that had escaped my notice (I usually counted every bud and waited in anticipation!) seemed to stand alone. It was a clear, true blue, very large, single star blossom on a plant with about six leaves. There were two more buds on the one stem. It was my favorite of all of Maggie's violets, the first of hers to bloom.

With no African Violet Club in this area, I hoped to get some interest started, and decided to enter my violets in the county fair. I could not enter so young a plant as Maggie's blue, and instead, entered two others, an unnamed plant the color of faded jeans blue and a semiminature seedling that was a pale creamy yellow or green, edged in purple. They were petted and groomed to perfection. I really tried hard.

I just had to enter Maggie's violet somehow, so I cut the stem with the blooms, tucked some parsley leaves around it, entered them in the cut flower division, miniature section.

Because they were not the traditional purple, my potted violets won only red ribbons in the houseplant division. The chairman of the division told me the judges were definitely not African violet people. (A blue ribbon winner had leaves that did not reach edge of a pot that was much too large, and the leaves were spotted with something rusty, but the blossoms were violet colored...and beautiful!)

Maggie's blue won a blue ribbon in the cut flowers division! But the best award of all is knowing that despite my doubts, the violet that grew and bloomed for Maggie, bloomed for me! I hope I saved at least one of each in her beautiful collection. They are now coming into bloom, one at a time.

And if anyone out there has a real honest-to-goodness yellow for sale, please let me know. Maggie still wants a yellow violet!

Convention Questions?

Contact Convention Director

Ann Miller

522 Willow Wisp Circle

Spring, TX 77388

Phone & Fax: (281) 355-7161

Coming Events



February 21 - March 1 - NORTH CAROLINA

38th Annual Southern Spring Show
"America the Beautiful"
Info: Kristi Helms (800) 849 - 0248

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVSA, 23rd Annual Judged Show/Sale
Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave.
Tampa, FL
Feb 27 - noon - 9pm
Feb 28 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: John Menish (813) 681 - 1910

February 27 - March 1 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida Annual Show
Coral Ridge Mall, 3200 North Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Info: Bea Marx (954) 581 - 0817

February 28 & March 1 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Southern Homes & Gardens, US Highway 231
North Montgomery, AL
Feb 28 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Info: (334) 567 - 5433

February 28 & March 1 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Show/Sale
Corpus Christi Garden Ctr., 5325 Greeley Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Feb 28 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

February 28 & March 1 - KANSAS

Wichita AV Study Club Show/Sale
701 N. Amidon, Wichita, KS
Feb 28 - 10am - 4pm
Mar 1 - 1pm - 3:30pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 2877

February 28 & March 1 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Ctr., 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK
Feb 28 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 1 - noon - 5pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

March 6 & 7 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVS Show/Sale
Fair Haven United Methodist Church
1330 Gessner, Houston, TX
Mar 6 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

March 6 & 7 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Beardall Sr. Ctr.
800 S. Delaney
Orlando, FL
Mar 6 - noon - 4pm
Mar 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Patti Schwindt (407) 423 - 4750

March 7 & 8 - OHIO

FloralScape '98
Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave.
Info: (216) 721 - 1695

March 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS Annual Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 7 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 8 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Sallie Barlow (504) 665 - 7958

March 12 & 14 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS Annual Show/Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
Avenue K at Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, TX
Mar 12 & 13 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 14 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Show/Sale
Ft. Myers - Lee Co. Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, FL
Mar 13 - 9am - 6:30pm
Mar 14 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542 - 9193

March 13 & 14 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS 26th Annual Show/Sale
Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA
Mar 13 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 14 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

March 14 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AV Society and Moonlight AVS Sale/Exhibit
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX
Hours: 9am - noon
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank,
12396 Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50), Spring Hill, FL
Mar 14 - 10:30am - 7pm
Mar 15 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 14 & 15 - LOUISIANA

Atchafalaya AVS Show/Sale
Municipal Auditorium, Myrtle Street
Mar 14 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Donnie Clement (504) 384 - 6852

March 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Mar 14 - noon - 5pm
Mar 15 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 14 & 15 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept., Montauk Highway
Mar 14 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: 473 - 8726

March 14 & 15 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola 22nd Annual Show/Sale
Bayview Community Center, 12th Ave. and Lloyd St.
Pensacola, FL
Mar 14 - 2pm - 6pm
Mar 15 - noon - 5pm
Info: Jan Kurtz (850) 932 - 8093

March 14 & 15 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AVS Show/Sale
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Center, Orchid Room
University Drive, Ft. Worth, TX
Mar 14 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 15 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Virginia Linson 481 - 2350

March 18 - 21 - NORTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 42nd Annual Convention, Show/Sale
Hosted by the First Goldsboro AVS
Hilton Inn, Greenville, NC
Open to Public: Saturday, Mar 21, 10am - 4pm
Info: Lorena Bunn (919) 747 - 8917

March 20 - 22 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Spring Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall, Co. Rd. B & N. Snelling Ave.
Roseville, MN
Mar 20 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 21 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 22 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Ken Rein (612) 488 - 2034

March 20 & 21 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale
Erwin Hall at First Presbyterian Church
1114 W. University, Denton, TX
Mar 20 - 1:30pm - 8pm
Mar 21 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Phyllis Reuss (817) 430 - 8147
Eunice Curry (940) 382 - 6465

March 21 - OREGON

Portland AVS Show/Sale
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St., Portland, OR
Hours: 2:30pm - 6pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS Annual Judged Show
Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center, University Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX
Both Days: 1pm - 4pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

March 21 & 22 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Gardens
2222 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX
Both Days: 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Susan Storey (512) 353 - 2858

March 21 & 22 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain AV Council Show/Sale
Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St., Denver, CO
Mar 21 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Mar 22 - 10am - 4:30pm

March 27 & 28 - TEXAS

First Nighter AVS of Dallas Spring Show/Sale
Big Town Mall, Hwy. 80 at Big Town Blvd.
Mesquite, TX
Mar 27 - 1pm - 8pm
Mar 28 - 10am - 8pm
Info: Paula Foster (972) 279-5993

March 27 & 28 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Spring Show/Sale
East Park Plaza Mall, 66th & O Streets, Lincoln, NE
Mar 27 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 28 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Jill Jensen (402) 420 - 2251

March 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Show
Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave.
La Verne, CA
Mar 27 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 28 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQuown (909) 672 - 7353

March 28 - New York

Hudson Highland AVS Show/Sale
Union Presbyterian Church, 44 Balmville Rd.
Newburgh, NY
Hours: noon - 4pm
Info: Mary Louise Miller (914) 831 - 7786

March 28 & 29 - IOWA

Evening AV Club of Des Moines Show/Sale
Des Moines Botanical Center
Des Moines, IA
Mar 28 - 10am - 5pm
Mar 29 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Kathy Mathews (515) 674 - 4025

March 28 - TEXAS

NASA Area AVS Exhibit/Sale
Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 NASA Rd. 1
Webster, TX
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Pauline Mahoney (281) 538-1880

March 27 & 28 - DELAWARE

Delaware AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Bascou's Auditorium, Concord Mall, Rt. 202
 Wilmington, DE
 Both Days: Sale - 10am - 8pm
 Show: 1:30pm - 8pm

Info: Bobbie LaFashia (302) 656-7215

March 28 & 29 - LOUISIANA

Jefferson AVA Annual Judged Show/Sale
 Lakeside Shopping Center, 3301 Veterans Blvd.
 Metairie, LA
 Mar 28 - 2pm - 9pm
 Mar 29 - noon - 6pm
 Info: Audrey Voorhees (504) 282 - 6492

March 28 & 29 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
 Chicago Botanic Garden
 Lake-Cook Rd. & Edens Expy, Glencoe, IL
 Both Days: 10am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Maybloom (847) 882 - 4652
 email: Hsmay@aol.com

April 2 - 4 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas Annual Show/Sale
 Richardson Square Mall, Beltline & Plano Rd.
 Richardson, TX
 Sale: Apr 2 - 4 - 10am - 9pm
 Show: Apr 3 - noon - 9pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 9pm
 Info: (972) 278 - 0389

April 3 - 5 - IOWA

Quad Cities AVS Show/Sale
 Duck Creek Mall, Bettendorf, IA
 Mall Hours
 Info: Celia Schafer (319) 359 - 0231

April 3 & 4 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVS Show/Sale
 Virginia Center Commons Mall, 10101 Brook Rd.
 Glen Allen, VA
 Both Days: 10am - 9:30pm
 Info: Barbara Greenwalt (804) 755 - 7434

April 3 & 4 - TEXAS

First AVS of Wichita Falls Show/Sale
 University United Methodist Church, 3405 Taft
 Wichita Falls, TX
 Apr 3 - 2pm - 4pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 3pm
 Info: Sue Ramser (940) 767 - 0388

April 3 & 4 - CANADA

Stampede AVS 22nd Annual Show/Sale
 Market Mall Shopping Centre, Fountain Court Area
 3625 Shaganappi Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Mall Hours
 Info: Winston J. Goretzky (403) 241 - 8313
 (leave message)
 email: goretzky@cadvision.com

April 3 - 5 - MINNESOTA

Minnesota AVS Show/Sale
 Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave
 just south of Hwy. 694, Maplewood, MN
 Apr 3 - 10am - 9pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 5 - noon - 6pm
 Info: Dolores Harrington (612) 571 - 0212

April 3 & 4 - ALABAMA

Early Bird VC Annual Show/Sale
 Garden Center Bldg., Ruth B. Strange Auditorium
 Birmingham Botanical Gardens
 Birmingham, AL
 Apr 3 - 2pm - 4pm
 Apr 4 - 9am - 3pm
 Info: Ramona Hodges (205) 833 - 1309

April 4 & 5 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ
 Apr 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Karyn Cichocki (973) 579 - 7914

April 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

AVS of Fort Walton Beach Annual Show/Sale
 Santa Rosa Mall, Mary Esther, FL
 Info: (850) 678 - 6902, (850) 863 - 2329
 (850) 651 - 1638

April 3 - 5 - MISSOURI

Unpredictables AVS 15th Annual Show
 Independence Center Shopping Mall, I-70 & M-291
 Independence, MO
 Info: (816) 229 - 8361

April 3 & 4 - SOUTH CAROLINA

First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
 Hillcrest Mall, 1901 E. Main St., Spartanburg, SC
 Apr 3 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 4 - 10am - 4pm (or until sold out)
 Info: Jessie Dennis (864) 578 - 1165

April 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA

Capital City AVS Display/Sale
 Shepard Garden and Arts Center
 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 5pm
 Info: (530) 878 - 0505

April 4 & 5 - ILLINOIS

Barrington Bloomers AVS Show/Sale
 Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd.
 Glencoe, IL
 Apr 4 - 1pm - 4pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Nikki Collard (847) 526 - 6055

April 4 & 5 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Annual Show/Sale
 Garden Center of Albuquerque, 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
 Albuquerque, NM
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

April 4 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
 Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr.
 Jacksonville, AR
 Hours: 9am - 5pm
 Danny Tidwell (501) 726-4803

April 4 - MICHIGAN

Border Cities AVC 46th Annual Display/Sale
 St. James Church, 241 Pearson St., Ferndale, MI
 Hours: 10am - 5pm
 Info: (313) 278 - 5030

April 4 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Judged Show
 Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St.
 Windsor, CT
 Hours: 9am - 3pm
 Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 828 - 7979

April 4 & 5 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Show/Sale
 The Mall at Fairfield Commons, Beavercreek, OH
 Mall Hours
 Info: Doris Palm (937) 873 - 8345
 Pat Hancock (513) 777 - 2524

April 4 & 5 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS 44th Annual Show/Sale
 John A. Anderson Recreation Ctr., 111N. Oceanside Rd.
 Rockville Centre, NY
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - noon - 5pm

April 4 & 5 - TEXAS

Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC 14th Annual Judged Show/Sale
 Conder Park Special Olympics Bldg.
 902 Conder St., Killeen, TX
 Apr 4 - 3pm - 5pm
 Apr 5 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Sneed (254) 542 - 1352

April 4 & 5 - LOUISIANA

Sundowner's AVS 18th Show/Sale
 Baton Rouge Garden Ctr., 7950 Independence Blvd.
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Apr 4 - 2pm - 6pm
 Apr 5 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Mary McFarland (504) 923 - 3337

April 10 & 11 - GEORGIA

Master City AV & Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
 Augusta Mall, 3450 Wrightsboro Rd., Augusta, GA
 Both Days: 10am - 9pm
 Info: Sharon Miles (706) 592 - 4274

April 10 & 11 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Easter Sale
 Tarrytown Mall, US 301 & Business 64
 Rocky Mount, NC
 Both Days: 10am - 7pm
 Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

April 11 & 12 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Spring Sale
 Matthea Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd.
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Apr 11 - 10am - 4:30pm
 Apr 12 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Lorean Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

April 16 - 18 - TENNESSEE

Bluff City AVC Spring Show
 Oak Court Mall, 4465 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN
 Apr 16 - 4pm - 9pm
 Apr 17 - 9am - 9pm
 Apr 18 - 9am - 6pm
 Info: Iona Pair (901) 385 - 1148
 Gwendolyn Brown (901) 362 - 1983

April 18 & 19 - CONNECTICUT

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
 Canoebrook Senior Center, Cherry Hill Rd.
 Branford, CT
 Apr 18 - 1pm - 4pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Carolyn Gaffan (203) 937 - 7434

April 18 & 19 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
 Annual AV Exposition, Chalet du Parc Maisonneuve
 4601 Sherbrook Est, Montréal, Québec, Canada
 Apr 18 - 10am - 5pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: (514) 990 - 5701

April 18 & 19 - ARKANSAS

Green Thumb AVS of Fayetteville, AR, Show/Sale
 Northwest Arkansas Mall, Fayetteville, AR
 Apr 18 - 1pm - 9pm
 Apr 19 - noon - 4pm
 Info: Mary Hill (918) 437 - 3343 (days)

April 18 & 19 - INDIANA

Indiana State AV Show/Sale
 Garfield Park Conservatory, 2450 Shelby St.
 Indianapolis, IN
 Both Days: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Chris Poore (317) 898 - 1608

April 18 - MISSOURI

Heart of Missouri AVS Spring Show/Sale
 Senior Center, 1121 East Bus. Loop 1-70
 Columbia, MO
 Hours: 9am - 3pm

April 18 & 19 - OHIO

Columbus AVS 50th Anniversary Show
 Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad St.
 Columbus, OH
 Apr 18 - noon - 5pm
 Apr 19 - 10am - 5pm
 Info: (614) 444 - 6315

April 18 - TEXAS

AVS of Beaumont Sale
 Garden Center at Tyrrell Park
 Beaumont, TX
 Hours: 9:30am - 3pm
 Info: Mildred Mitchell (409) 866 - 0012

April 18 & 19 - NEW YORK

Saintpaulia Society of Long Island Annual Show/Sale
 St. Mary of the Isle Parish Hall,
 Park Ave. and Monroe Blvd., Long Beach, NY
 Apr 18 - 3pm - 7pm
 Apr 19 - 8am - 3pm
 Info: Claire Schirtzer (516) 432 - 6843

April 24 & 25 - NEW JERSEY

Bergen County AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Old North Reformed Church,
 Washington & Madison Ave.
 Dumont, NJ
 Apr 24 - 3pm - 9pm
 Apr 25 - 9am - 3pm

Info: Joe DiSimo (201) 261 - 4215

April 25 & 26 - WASHINGTON

Seattle AVS & The Puget Sound Gesneriad Society
 Annual Show/Sale
 U of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture
 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA
 Apr 25 - noon - 5pm
 Apr 26 - noon - 4pm
 Info: Merri Naki (425) 513 - 1346

April 25 & 26 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Lower Bucks County Annual Show/Sale
 Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Rd., Bristol, PA
 Both Days: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Joyce McMullen (215) 752 - 2554

April 25 & 26 - VIRGINIA

8th Annual Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival
 Downtown Historic District
 Apr 25 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 26 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: (703) 777 - 1368

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Club Violette Longueuil
Centre Jeanne Dufresnoy, 1 est. Boul. Curé Poirier
Longueuil (Q.C.), Canada
Apr 25 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Apr 26 - 9am - 4pm
Info: R. Martin 448 - 4924
M. Paradis 928 - 8097

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Monctonian AVS Spring Show
MacArthur's Nurseries, 232 McLaughlin Rd.
Moncton, NB, Canada
Apr 25 - 2pm - 9pm
Apr 26 - 9am - 4pm
Info: (506) 855 - 1758

April 25 & 26 - NEW YORK

AVS Greater New York 41st Annual Spring Show
Queens Botanical Garden,
43-50 Main St., Flushing, NY
Apr 25 - 1:30pm - 5:30pm
Apr 26 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Sally Jantrac (718) 779 - 4350
Ray Coyle (718) 296 - 8033

April 25 & 26 - CANADA

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens, 25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, ON, Canada
Apr 25 - 11am - 5pm
Apr 26 - noon - 4pm
Info: Jim Toms (416) 622 - 5243

April 25 & 26 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh Violet Society 18th Annual Show/Sale
Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh
Apr 25 - 10am - 5pm
Apr 26 - noon - 4:30
Info: Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262
Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764

April 30 - May 3 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Annual Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall, Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Crik 479 - 3681

May 1 & 2 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
May 1 - 2pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Manozzi (508) 872 - 1478

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter's 44th AV Exhibit & Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ
May 1 - 6pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVC Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
E. State St. Extension, Mercerville, NJ
May 1 - 1pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Claudia Schaeffer (609) 448 - 2957
Gary Thurman (609) 499 - 3395

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

MKO Violet Club of Joplin, MO Annual Show
Including plants from the AVC of Bella Vista, AR
Bethany Presbyterian Church
20th & Virginia, Joplin, MO
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
May 2 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Linda Lewis (417) 673 - 3061
Pall Stott (417) 525 - 4254

May 1 - 3 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Spring Show
Beechmont Mall, Anderson Township
May 1 - 1pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - noon - 6pm
Info: (513) 271 - 5678
(606) 384 - 4437

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY
Rt. 31, West of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 2 & 3 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Show & Convention
Elgin Holiday Inn, 345 W. River Rd.
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5:30pm
May 3 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Jan Bruns (630) 837 - 1298

May 2 & 3 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Springfield, Delaware Co.
Springfield Mall, Rt. 320 & Baltimore Pike
May 2 - 11am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Corse (610) 566 - 5042

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main St. (Putney)
Stratford, CT
Exit 535 off Merritt Parkway
May 2 - 1pm - 4pm
May 3 - 10am - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm
May 3 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Cindy O'Brien (203) 846 - 0268

May 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
43rd Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 2 & 3 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura Co. AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
May 2 - 10am - 6pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 7 - 9 - OHIO

Violets & Friends Club Show/Sale
Miami Valley Centre Mall, Rt. 36 & I-75
Piqua, OH
May 7 - 1pm - 9pm
May 8 & 9 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (937) 492 - 6588
(937) 773 - 6603

May 8 & 9 - CANADA

AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
Show: May 8 - 4:30pm - 9pm
Sale: May 9 - 9:30am - 6pm
Info: Margaret Gratto (403) 346 - 2232

May 8 & 9 - KANSAS

Bright Petals AVC Annual Display/Sale
Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th St.
Great Bend, KS
May 8 - 8am - 6pm
May 9 - 9am - 5pm
Info: (316) 285 - 6478
(316) 793 - 6875

May 8 & 9 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC 38th Annual Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall, 7899 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30pm - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546

May 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Mother's Day Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm (or until sold out)
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

May 8 & 9 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC 44th Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, MD
May 8 - 1pm - 9pm
May 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Janet Haag (410) 377 - 8753

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

May 8 & 9 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale
Memphis Botanical Garden, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Geneva Stagg (901) 757 - 1136

May 9 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Spring Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd.
Bellevue, NE
Mall Hours
Info: Perry Robinson (402) 280 - 2882
Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 9 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olson (707) 836 - 0910

May 9 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale
Padre Staples Mall, 5488 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Hours: 10am - 5:30pm
Info: Majorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

May 9 & 10 - GEORGIA

AVC of Greater Atlanta Mother's Day Mini Show/Sale
North Dekalb Mall
Lawrenceville Hwy. & North Druid Hills Rd.
Decatur, GA
Mall Hours
Info: Kathy Spissman (770) 939 - 5289

May 9 & 10 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montréal Annual Show/Sale
Pointe Claire Curling Club, Cartier/Lanthier
Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada
May 9 - 1pm - 5pm
May 10 - noon - 4pm
Info: (514) 695 - 5149

May 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina, Lower Level - Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (626) 969 - 1431

May 15 - 17 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Northtown Mall, Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE
Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

May 16 & 17 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester 49th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, NY
May 16 - 2pm - 6pm
May 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384
email: IrwinWag@aol.com

May 24 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Annual Judged Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E. at Leslie
North York, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Hamilton (416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm





What's New on the Internet

by Wayne Donaho, AVSA Webmaster

In the last few months, a dedicated group of volunteers has been working behind the scenes on the AVSA web site at <http://www.AVSA.org>.

A web site is a lot like an electronic magazine. The advantage is that a web site can have new information every day. If you have internet access, you can see our new web site at: <http://www.AVSA.org>

We have designed the site to have useful information for experienced African violet growers, and also to provide beginners who are not yet AVSA members with the basic information they need to become successful growers.

Some of the new information on the web site includes:

New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A new comprehensive FAQ has been written that contains information for beginners and advanced growers. If you have an idea to improve any of the answers, please send it using e-mail to FAQ@avsa.org.

Included in the FAQ section is a message forum, where readers can post additional questions about African violets. This forum will work like the very popular gesneriphiles mailing list does today, but it will work through the web instead of e-mail.

New Events Calendar

We have set up an electronic events calendar that will allow our affiliate clubs to publicize shows, sales, and local club meetings. Publicizing local affiliate club meetings should increase the number of new members each affiliate attracts.

Affiliates Listing

We have also set up a listing of all affiliate clubs so that newcomers who are looking for a local club to join can easily find a club near them. We encourage every affiliate to send us contact information. We at AVSA want to provide your affiliate this publicity so that your affiliate continues to attract new members, because we know that your new members will also become new AVSA members.

Vendor Index

When our local club does a show at the mall, people constantly ask us, "Where can I buy those nice white pots? Where do you get these unusual plant varieties?" Well, here is the answer for everyone who does not yet have access to the AVM magazine: a listing of our commercial members, what they sell, and how to contact them. The index also contains links to the web sites belonging to many of our commercial members. If you have not looked at these sites already, I recommend that you take the time.

Attention AVSA Affiliates

Please look at the web site affiliate pages, and send us information about contact people in your club. The affiliate index will attract new members to our local affiliate, so make sure your club's listing is current.

See <http://www.AVSA.org/affiliates/updates> for information on updating your affiliate listing and entering your club's events into the AVSA web event calendar.

Electronic African Violet Show

This is one of the most exciting additions. We are asking African violet growers to submit photographs of their plants to the Internet Committee. The committee will post these photographs on the web. Visitors to the site will choose the winners by voting on which photos they like best. Submit your photos, or just come and vote for your favorites!

First show topic is: ***Your Favorite African Violet.***

Library of Plant Photographs

This section contains photographs of African violets and other gesneriads. Photographs will be selected from old issues of the AVM, and from those submitted by our web site viewers. If you have a photo you wish to show off, please send it to the Internet Committee. Instructions are located at

African Violet Magazine Index and Articles

We are working to have a searchable database of all of the articles that have appeared in the *African Violet Magazine*. Also the web site will have some of the best articles from past issues of the AVM.

Photograph of the Day

On this page, we will display a new photograph of an African violet every day. The photographs are selected from those in the photo library.

Convention Information

Complete 1998 Convention information is now available on the web site.

African Violet and Gesneriad Books for Sale

New African violet growers always want to know if there is a good book available. AVSA in association with Amazon.com now sells AV and gesneriad books including: Tony Clements' *African Violets*, Melvin Robey's *African Violets: Gifts from Nature*, and Ruth Coulson's *Growing African Violets: And Some Other Flowering House Plants*, and Pauline Bartholomew's *Growing to Show*.

Visit <http://www.AVSA.org> often to see the latest news!

Our new site will be constantly changing, with new photographs, new event listings, and new entries in our electronic shows. We hope you will come again and again, and find something new and useful every time you visit.

Long Division for African Violets, not Arithmetic

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

The three most commonly asked questions about African violets are: "Why did my African violet die?", "Why won't my African violet flower?" and "What is the best time to divide them up?"

Naturally the answers to all three of these are somewhat intertwined, but since this is spring, the very best time of year to do repotting, let us look at the last of the three.

It is a question which sets the teeth of many a grower of fine show quality African violets on edge. That is because if you are serious about growing good African violets you try to prevent them getting to the stage of needing to be "divided up". However, even in the best regulated collections it does happen from time to time, and for the rest of us perhaps even more frequently.

Let us accept the fact that a rosette type African violet will look better, grow better, stay healthier and certainly flower more profusely over a longer period if kept to just one crown. If you prefer the multicrowned look, it would be better to grow trailing African violets which succeed beautifully grown with as many crowns as possible.

So why does an African violet sometimes become a mass of side shoots, and what can be done to prevent this happening?

Side shoots (or suckers) are small extra crowns which grow around the base of the plant, sometimes from below the level of the potting mix, and sometimes from the leaf axils. If they are allowed to continue to grow they will eventually push the main leaves of the plant out of shape and the whole plant will become a bunch of leaves growing in all directions, instead of the neat rosette of leaves which we prefer to achieve.

Some varieties of African violets have a greater tendency to produce side shoots than others. This is reminiscent of the rather informal growth habit of the majority of the species saintpaulias. It is, however, something that any of them will do when under stress of any type, and also at other, less easily understood, times.

Prevent side shoots by taking good care of the plant in the following ways:

- Pot up the plant into a larger pot than necessary, until it is in a pot of 100 mm (for standard type African violets) which is usually optimum for all but the largest growing and most vigorous plants.
- Preserve the center of the plant by guarding against pests, by fertilizing in moderation and by leaching periodically with clear water.
- Keep the plant in the best conditions you can provide, with careful attention to watering. Wick watering or other automatic watering systems are the best for providing even water levels to the roots of the plant.

But what do you do if the plant produces sideshoots anyway? First, they should be removed as soon as noticed. A

sideshoot can be distinguished from a flower bud at a very early stage because the sideshoot will have a number of leaves, whereas a flower bud will have only two tiny leaves. Use a pair of tweezers, a knife, a hooked blade, or similar to take sideshoot out completely.

Sideshoots for propagation

If the side shoot is large and is removed whole it can be planted in a separate small pot and will grow on to be a plant resembling the original. If it grew around the very base of the plant it might even already have its own root system. This is fine in the case of a chimera (which, by definition, does not reproduce "true" from the leaves), or even in the case of a fantasy or other bicolored type which doesn't **always** reproduce "true" from leaf.

In these cases you might let the sideshoot grow a little larger so that it can easily be removed from the plant whole, and can be used for propagation. This is the exception to prove the rule that they should be removed as soon as identified.

Dividing it up

And if the whole thing "gets away from you" and becomes a mass of shoots in the pot? Well don't despair. Wait until the warm weather and you can indeed divide it up!

To carry out this operation, it is best to let the plant dry out (slightly) so that the leaves are less brittle, then take it out of its pot, shake any loose potting mix away from the root ball and remove any old, damaged or very large leaves so that you can see the base of the main stem very well.

Now is the time to remove, with a knife, any side shoots which are obviously distinct. If the rest is a congested mass, you just have to take your knife in one hand and your courage in the other, and cut the root ball (and stems) according to how you think each piece will have just one crown.

You may well find that you have made some mistakes in cutting it up, but after all if you get one good rosette with its own root system out of the whole thing, you are no worse off. If the plant divides up easily into distinct plants, then any or all of them can be potted separately. Beware, however, as this is the way to end up with heaps more plants than you need.

When potting up each section, be sure to remove all traces of other crowns, all loose roots, and all outer leaves, keeping just the healthy leaves at the center of the crown.

Trim the root ball so that it will fit in a pot of appropriate size to the leaves and plant in good quality potting mix. Water, but don't fertilize for a few weeks to give the plant time to settle down.

Then, watch it grow (but be sure you remove any little sideshoots as they appear in future!).

*Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet",
Official Journal of the AV Assn. of Australia*

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE -	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
3 5/16 IN WIDE		
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA. Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Lane
Houston, Texas 77094-3412
Phone: 281-492-2034

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers,
Baby Begonias, and various
gesneriads list available,
January 1997, \$2.00,
refundable with 1st order



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #D 2889.001

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057



To order: **PRINT** the name, street
address, city, state and zip clearly
on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces
maximum on each line). Mail your
check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the
address on the label below. Orders
will be submitted every time 30
orders are acquired.



Alannah's African Violets

"Mail order specialists for award-winning African Violets"

**Best wishes to all exhibitors and visitors attending
the AVSA's Annual Convention and Show in Sacramento.**

We hope to see you there!

Established starter plants and fresh-cut leaves shipped thru October, weather permitting.

THIS SEASON WE LIST A SELECTION OF RELATED GERNEARIADS.

**We take pride in our expert wrapping and packing.
Specializing in international shipping**

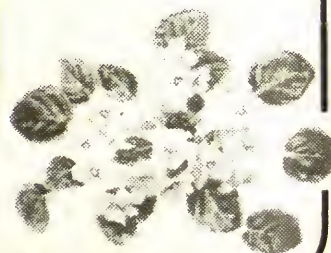
**Visit on the Internet: alannahs.com
Our full catalogue is featured!
e-mail us at: alannahs@mail.netshop.net**

Box 2
Danville WA.
USA, 99121

RR 1, Site 640,
Grand Forks, B.C.
Canada V0H 1H0

CATALOGUE ONLY \$2.00

Phone: (250) 442-2552 Fax: (250) 442-0254





VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$28.50 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$15.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$28 per dozen plants. *Minis, trailers, and variegated foliage types available upon request. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A \$24.50 value for **only \$15.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



Telephone (303) 761-1770 • FAX (303) 762-1808

The Violet Showcase



3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80110

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 5 (Mountain Time) closed Sunday & Tuesday

Established 1969



Travis Violets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



New & older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1998 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$30 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets AD EXPIRES 09/30/98

Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ Mem. # _____ Date _____

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- ☐ Individual Membership USA (\$18.00)
- ☐ Associate Member USA (\$10.00-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ☐ International Membership (\$20.50)
- ☐ International Associate (\$11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ☐ Commercial USA (\$30.00)
- ☐ Commercial International (\$33.75)
- ☐ Affiliated Chapter USA (\$20.00)
- ☐ Affiliated Chapter International (\$22.50)
- ☐ Affiliated State, Regional and Council (\$20.00)
- ☐ Life Member (\$275.00)
- ☐ Library (\$18.00)
- ☐ International Life (\$325.00)

(Please type or print)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal Mem. # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc. INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in US \$ with a draft or check on a USA bank. International postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

VISA / MC accepted Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES INC.

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality hybrids since 1954



Visit our web site at
www.lyndonlyon.com

Our 1998 COLOR CATALOG
introducing our newest creations

featuring
Monthly specials!

IS NOW READY
FOR MAILING

To receive your copy, please send
\$3.00 U.S./\$5.00 International

African Violets • Gesneriads • Orchids • Exotic Houseplants • Hanging Baskets

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

African Violets

Columnneas Streptocarpus
Aeschynanthus Sinningias
Codonanthus Kohlerias
Episcias and more!



SHIRLEY AND SANDY

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN SACRAMENTO CA
THE WEEK OF APRIL 19 THROUGH THE 26TH
TO "DISCOVER VIOLETS!"



If you cannot attend the 52nd annual AVSA Convention, **SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS** will be shipping as many orders as we can before leaving for CA. Listed below is a sampling of what we have to offer you in our new catalog. It is available for \$1.00.

HOBBS-GREGG - DEAN'S LUCINNE - Single to semidouble light pink blossoms with a darker pink band and a white edge. Symmetrical med. green and white variegated. SM

CROTEAU - IMPRESARIO - Semi-dbl mauve pansies with darker veining and raspberry edge topped with a geneva edge. Quilted Tommie Lou variegation. Standard

HANCOCK - BUCKEYE BEJEWLED - Semidbl lavender pink tones with raspberry and purple fantasy. Dark green, rose, pink and cream variegated foliage. Standard

SORANO - PRETTY POISON - Semidbl/dbl white pansies with variable light green markings and red ruffled edge. Medium green quilted foliage. Standard

ROBINSON - ROB'S SMARTY PANTS - Semidbl white ruffled stars edged in blue with pink speckles. Medium green, glossy, serrated foliage. M (Plants avail. in May)

NESS' - PIXIE GRIN - Semidouble mauve pansies with a delicate white edge. Symmetrical Tommie Lou variegated foliage. SM

HARRIS - FIRST ROBIN - Semidouble pink blossoms with a red eye and often with red tips top the dark green heart shaped foliage. SM trailer

Space does not allow us to give descriptions of all the lovely new varieties that we have available from Lambert, Delelles, Pittman, Stork, Brownlie. We also have favorites such as, the Wranglers, Apache, Rodeo and the best of Marie Burns and Sandra Williams. We also have a good trailer selection.

Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants. Shipping is \$7.00. Shipping for over 6 will be 40 cents per plant. **LEAVES:** Plants are \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

We will begin shipping March 1 in most southern states. Other states when weather permits. Make checks payable to **Shirley Sanders**. Our address: 1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221. Telephone number 210-923-1093. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards.

Mini-Greenhouse

Free 8 1/2" x 11" color booklet!



This practical greenhouse has all the quality, and as much growing room, as a 6 ft. structural greenhouse — at a fraction of the cost. See why our owners say *"Your greenhouse is the best."*

- Strong tempered glass
- Lifetime warranty
- Doors open from all sides
- 60-day home trial

Gardener's Greenhouse™
A PBM GROUP PRODUCT

Call or write for FREE Booklet.

1-800-429-5005

Dept. 24038GH, 160 Koser Rd., Lititz, PA 17543

JIM WILDMAN

133 Rosemont Drive
Syracuse, NY 13205



Standards, Minis, Trailers - express shipping available year round for cold climates after Oct. 1 - before April 30th at extra charge.

CATALOG \$1.00 – Telephone - 315-492-2562

African violet leaves & supplies

SPECIALS

12 Leaves, my choice - \$15.50 postage paid

24 Leaves, my choice - \$27.00 postage paid

50 Leaves, my choice - \$52.00 postage paid

HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards
Lots of Oldies Plus New Varieties
Fresh Cut Leaves – Starter Plants
State Inspected and Certified*



1998 List \$1.50
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1998
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

African Violet Beauties *From The Beautiful Ozarks!*

Starter plants will be \$2.00 ea. Leaves \$1.25 ea. List \$1.
I expect this to be my last year to ship. Also, shipping season will be short so please order early. U.S. Ship Only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS

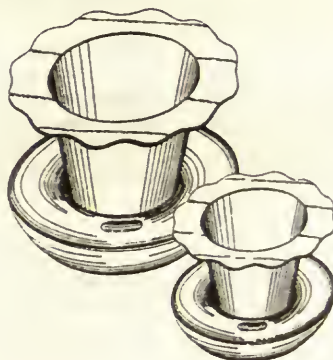
15980 W. Warden Road, Omaha, Arkansas 72662

DANDY POT

Reservoir Wick Planter

The WICK does the WATERING ... for WEEKS

- 2" and 4" sizes
- 12 colors
- Unbreakable plastic



For retail sales contact your favorite mail order catalog

- Clear reservoir
- Built in leaf support
- Easy to clean

Wholesale prices
for your club sales

Dandy Enterprises

P.O. Box 7285
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
Further Information: 813-973-8611
Made in USA

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 3" and 3 1/2" round tubs

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
7"	Wh/Gr	RS/PP	7.00	12.70	26.50	48.90	230.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
3"	Wh	\$1.75	\$3.40	\$7.00	\$12.50	6"	\$2.75
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#1 Durable 25.5" L x 13.5" W x 3 3/16" D No holes	Wh/Gr	\$3.60	\$32.50
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft. \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
3"	Wh	3.05	23.50	37.50	115.00
3 1/2"	Wh	3.45	24.50	41.25	120.00
4"	Wh/Gr/TC	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh/Gr	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.00	\$19.00	\$35.00	\$60.00



WATER RESERVOIRS for WICK-WATERING

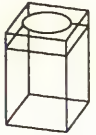
Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5"	3.00	12.50	23.00	53.00
To Fit 3-3 1/2"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite,	1 gal.	\$2.00
vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but	1 gal.	\$2.00
contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
JUNGLE JUICE (2-5-4)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$2.00	12 oz./\$3.30
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
		4 oz./\$7.00

PETERS FERTILIZER

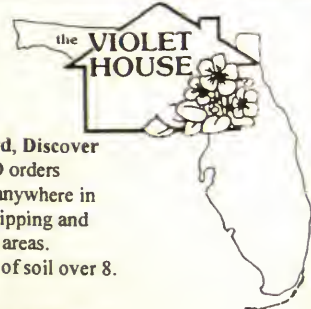
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	1 lb.	\$6.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	12 oz.	\$4.50
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	8 oz.	\$5.50
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
SAFERS INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	8 oz.	\$3.50
Concentrate	8 oz.	\$5.00
KNOX-OUT PT1500A - Aerosol spray	16 oz.	\$7.75

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.50 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order



Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

The 1998 Releases from
Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses

(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1998 Catalog

Available Feb. 15th

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
 Tyler, TX 75709-9738

Phone: 903-595-5137
 Fax: 903-593-7956



OVER 800 VARIETIES

List, \$1.50. Refundable

1998 List available NOW!

LEAVES AND SOIL MIX ONLY

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street
 W. Sayville, NY 11796
 (516) 589-2724

PAT'S PATCH

Home of "Buckeye Beauties". Specializing in variegated standards and many "Hard to Find" varieties from "hobby" hybridizers who grow for show.

Also for 1998 - 40 exciting imports from Australia. Leaves only.
 List - \$1.25 cash or stamps only, please.

P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

CERAMIC
SELF-WATERING AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Finest quality, hand-made in U.S.A. Put water in bottom portion, the plant in insert. Ruffle rim of insert pot offers gentle support for tender lower leaves. Porous insert pot draws water supply evenly to root system for ideal watering. Add water every 2 weeks and watch your plants thrive!

White high-gloss glaze on outside pot and ruffle of insert has decal decoration fired into glaze to last the lifetime of pot. Select color and style to enhance the beauty and eye-appeal of your African Violet Display!



STYLE P1 RUFFLE POT
 Capacity: 4-5-inch plant
 Size: 4" H, 5-1/2" D
 PRICE: \$14.95



STYLE P2 POT
 Capacity: 3-4-inch plant
 Size: 4" H, 5-1/2" D
 Pot has holes for adding water
 PRICE: \$13.95

STYLE P3 Pot
 (same as Style P2 above)
 Capacity: 5-6-inch plant.
 Size: 5-1/2" H, 6-1/2" D
 PRICE: \$18.95

Standard patterns: green ivy, purple/yellow pansies, purple violets, pink roses, blue forget-me-nots. For other selections of flower or fruit decals, send SASE for catalog page. Specify color preference. All styles above also available in plain high-gloss white glaze without decoration; deduct \$1.00 from price above.

Shipment within 2-3 weeks after receipt of order and personal check or money order. Guaranteed to arrive in perfect condition by Parcel Post or UPS Ground.

PLEASE ADD \$5.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING FOR ONE POT;
 \$2.50 PER POT FOR EACH ADDITIONAL UNIT ORDERED.

LAINY CERAMICS

28506 BORGONA MISSION VIEJO CA 92692
 (714) 581-1464

www.lainycer@earthlink.net
 Commercial Member, AVSA, Inc.



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

**GARDENING
SUPPLIES**

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

- ◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
- ◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

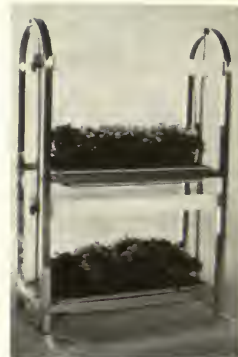
40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$34.67 12 = \$59.16 24 = \$112.35

G4-SD2 \$549.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE 32 PAGE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D



- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



Acree Creations

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE
3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO!
STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors
growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY
Florida Registration number: 47219602

Linda's Heavenly Accents

P.O. Box 690
Cordova, NC 28330-0690
(910) 895-8200
station@infoave.net



Let us **Accent** your collection!
1998 releases from, Robs Mini-o-lets,
Hortense Pittman, Lyons, Kent Stork and over
1000 standard and large favorites!
Over 400 minis and semiminis
New List \$1.00 refundable with order.

Spring Special

**25 Fresh Cut Leaves all different,
labeled, \$12.50 p.p.**

50 including some new, \$22.50 p.p.
"our choice of varieties, your choice of types."

Club Orders Welcome

Join our Happy Customers.



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

Over 30 varieties

EPISCIAS ONLY

send for a free price list
512-467-7553

Cuttings available

6 starter plants my choice

\$15.00 + \$5.00 postage & packing

Toni's Home Nursery
1112 Taulbee Lane
Austin, Texas 78757



African violets know no borders, so why not
become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive *Chatter*, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African
violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and
forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your
African violet collection requiring the
same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes
and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags
year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information
or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00
Evergreen Violets
P. O. Box 49534
Blaine, MN 55449

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to
The Gloxinian magazine (six issues) plus a
copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of
orchids each month when you
become a member of the American
Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the
American Orchid Society Bulletin to pages filled with
priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied
by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special
advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants,
supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and
whatever else is needed to become a successful grower.
Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your
fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color
membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998!

Available now for shipping only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
**Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show**

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

Plus 2 Spectacular New Chimeras!

ROB'S LUCKY PENNY. Very rare, one-of-a-kind variegated foliage! Sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eye, over tiny, pointed fol. w/very unusual variegation - like leaves of euonymus w/very broad, irregular white margin; variegation is totally insensitive to heat; mini (\$10 - limited supply)

ROB'S THINGAMAJIG. Tremendous! A must-have, and sure to be a favorite; pink sdbls. /w/prominent blue pinwheel stripes; excellent, dark var. foliage; excellent mini showplant (\$10)

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including "Rob's Sarsparilla" best new intro at '97 AVSA

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S MISSY. A truly lovely plant; large fringed lt. lavender w/cream throat; great grower and bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOONLIT SKY. White w/dark blue throat and lower lobes edged in white; great symmetrical foliage; profuse

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S STARDUST. Extremely unusual! Large purple-black blooms w/distinctive gold 'glitter' salted on lower lobes; must see to believe; very different.

BRISTOL'S SUZY QUE. Perhaps my favorite; never-ending masses of fully dbl. white blooms w/med. lilac-blue lower lobes edged in white held in bouquet above foliage; fantastic

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus dozens of other favorites

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.



Air Express 5 pack: \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states

Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. These minis are easy to grow!

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



NURSERY CO., INC.
ESTABLISHED 1843

1-800-446-7723

Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Light tubes, fertilizers, violet pots including the Dondy Pot® plus orchids, hibiscus, plumerias, bromeliads, and supplies.

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Self-Watering

27 unique designs available • Artfully Handpainted
Catalog \$1 Refundable • All pots crafted in USA

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(415) 728-7683



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine

Growing & Maintenance

Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (Rafiki) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (Mhifadi) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (Mlezi) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

*Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 31 E. 12th Street, Suite 2D •
New York, NY 10003*

Our Customers say it best...

**In a recent letter from Mrs. Ramona Donnell, Awards
Chairman for the Missouri Valley AVC she said,**

"... I used your fertilizer exclusively on the 7 plants that I took to show and I received 7 Blue Ribbons, 6 Best in Class and 1 Judges Special Award. I also won best other gesneriad, Best Mini and 2nd Best Mini in show. After the awards were announced, everyone was most interested in how I had used Dyna-Gro.

In the past I have grown plants that won blue ribbons but not the quality of these plants.

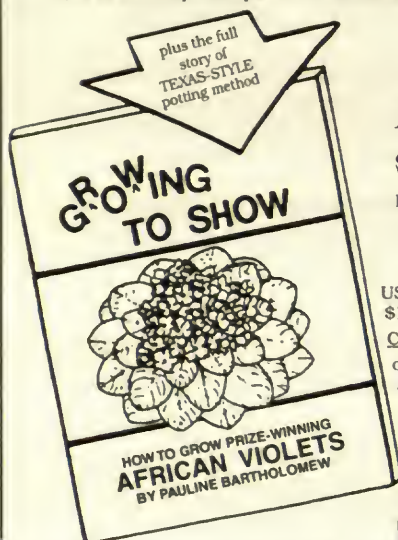
...I can say with some conviction that you have gained some converts."

DYNA-GRO™
THE NUTRITION SOLUTION®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't
growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

AV Enterprises Press
P.O. Box 6778-A
Oxnard, CA 93030

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

AFRICAN VIOLET SELF-WATERING POTS

DESIGNED BY MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

15 UNIQUE DESIGNS, 3 INDIVIDUAL SIZES,
SOUTHWESTERN, COUNTRY, AND CREATIVE STYLES,
HANDCRAFTED AND HANDPAINTED
MADE IN USA

CATALOG \$2 (REFUNDABLE WITH ORDERS OF \$25.00)

OR VISIT US ON THE WWW AT

<http://www.13.pair.com/mudhole>

"Now Available At Participating Home Depot Stores"

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

870 RESEARCH DRIVE, #5

PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

PHONE (888) 549-8149

FAX (800) 549-3837

VISA, MC, AMEX ACCEPTED

VIOLETS ETC., INC.

Bonnie Schmidtkofer
813-468-9457

1011 Wood Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

African Violet Leaves

Gesneriad Cuttings

Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.

List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.

Open by Appointment

AVSA OFFICE 1 (800) 770-AVSA



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments

10 Standard
10 Miniature
10 Semiminiature
10 Trailers
10 Mixed
10 Mixed/all new
10 Species
10 Streptocarpus
10 Achimenes
10 Aeschynanthus
10 Columnea
10 Nematanthus
10 Mixed other Gesneriads

Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes

6.95
4.95
4.95
4.95
5.95
7.95
7.95
7.95
7.95
7.95
7.95
7.95

Starters

21.95
17.95
17.95
17.95
19.95
24.95
24.95
24.95
24.95
24.95
24.95
24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

Bluebird Greenhouses Apex, NC At the Peak of Violetry



Send \$1 for catalog. Open 9-12 weekdays.

4821 Jessie Drive

Apex North Carolina 27502

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie@ibm.net
<http://RTPnet.org/~avsa/bbhome.htm>



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10,

also CHIMERAS. Latest releases from MARIE BURNS, DATES, BARBARA ELKIN, BILL FOSTER, LYNONS, D. HARRINGTON, KENT STORK, WRANGLERS and much more.

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00. Gifts, cards, and notes available.

NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

email violets@cape.com - Web page www.cape.com/~violets

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type
12-36-14	African Violet Special
5-50-17	Variegated Special
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special
20-20-20	General Purpose
15-30-15	House Plant Special
Dolomite Limestone	
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse
	No. 6 Medium
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse
Perlite	Coarse
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss	

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

Size / Price	8 oz.
4 oz.	8 oz.
\$1.60	\$3.00
1.60	3.00
4 oz.	12 oz.
1.25	3.00
4 oz.	16 oz.
1.25	3.00
1.25	3.00
	2 lbs./\$1.75
20 oz.	40 oz.
1.75	3.25
4 qts.	16 qts.
1.75	5.00
1.75	5.00
	432 cu. inches/\$3.75

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER

WHOLESALE

DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES

SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

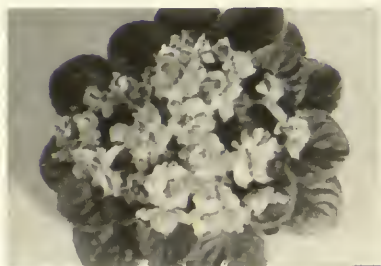
Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



Fantasy Freckles

*Spring Ushers African Violet Stars,
Replenish Your Favorite Cultivars.
Shipping Weather Is So Befitting,
Fresh Stock Dispels Unwitting.*

Eight Beauties for 1998. \$3.95 Each

Bianca, Designer Dress, Fantasy Freckles, Halo's Aglitter, Hot Spot, Luminescence, Phosphorescence, Sunrise Coral.

Kaleidoscope of Colors \$2.95 Each

Alamo Red, Angel's Reflection, Anniversary Tribute, Arapahoe, Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Candy Cane, Cherries N' Cream, Cristabel, Fire Mountain, Hot Pants, Mia, Mighty Fine, Pink Cameo, Pink Heaven, Rapid Transit, Razmataz, Red Admiral, Red Robe, Renata, Ruffled Skies, Snowkist Haven, Tomahawk, Toreador, White Cameo.

Embellish Your Collection \$2.49 Each

Azure Blue, Bangle Blue, Billy Penn, Brandywine, Centennial Purple, Coral Glow, Coralette, Dazzler, Firebird, Hallmark Haven, Ingrid, Morning Thunder, Pink Hill, Pink Verona, White Disco, Wonderland.

Variegated Varieties \$2.95 Each

Affection, Champagne Halo, Happy Halo, Nancy Reagan, Romance, Tommie Lou, Tradition.

Miniature & Semiminiature

Irish Flirt ... \$3.95 - \$2.95 Each. Little White Beauty, Mini Favorite, Party Lace, Pretty Baby. \$2.49 Each ... Blue Ice, Little Baby Brian, Little Julie, Little Pro, Snuggles Innocence, Taffy.

Terrific Trailers \$2.49 Each

Crafty Farmer, Royal Blue Trailer, Sky Trailer, Sweetheart Trailer.

Send For 1998 Color Catalog \$1.00

Orders Accepted And Acknowledged, Plant Shipping Season Begins May 1st to November 1st.

Packing and Postal Costs: First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone	0-1-2	.....	\$5.95 per shipment
Zone	3-4-5	.....	\$6.95 per shipment
Zone	6-7-8-9	.....	\$7.95 per shipment

CA and all customers West of MS are served best via UPS 2nd DAY AIR. Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage stated for this service.



Tinari
GREENHOUSES
Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144 • Fax (215) 947-2163

African Violet

A 3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June 1998

Volume 51

Number 3



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail promers@juno.com

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Bob Green, 997 Botany Ln., Rockledge, FL 32955.

AVSA OFFICE: 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Sacramento, CA - April 19-27, 1998, Houston, TX - April 3-12, 1999.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGES DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST: Number 5 is out of stock.

MVL NUMBER 6 - All remaining stock will be sold at \$6.50 each postpaid. Describes all varieties registered to Dec. 31, 1992 - all recognized species and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 to Dec. 1992. MVL is looseleaf and fits in MVL binder available from AVSA office or in an 8-1/2 x 11 regular binder.

MVL NUMBER 7 - Now available for \$15.00 each. Describes all varieties to Dec. 31, 1996.

MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$8.95 each.

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 3771 Copper Penny Lane, Auburn, CA 95603.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1992 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$25.00. Updates \$7.50.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June

Volume 51

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LIBRARY
Number 3

CONTENTS

MAY 05 1998

GARDEN LIBRARY

FEATURES

Timely Tips	7
Important Notice: Senior Judges - Frances King	13
AV Sports - Sue Gardner	13
Some Experiences in Hybridizing	
With the Species - Trailers - Dr. Jeff Smith	14
It Was Nice While It Lasted - David Buttram	16
Remembering Alma Wright	17
1998 Vacation Guide - David Buttram	18
Dividing and Choosing Baby Plants - Celine Chase	21
Pots - Pauline Bartholomew	21
Notes on Trailing African Violets - Dr. Ralph Robinson	22
Soil & Potting Mixtures - Mary Walbrick	24
Grooming is More Important	
Than You Think! - Sue Hoffman	27
Failures in Raising African Violets - Don Geiss	33
Keeping Track of	
Your Collection - Elizabeth Whitesides	36

Poem: Purple Passion - Ann Kuperburg	37
Hopefully Helpful Handy Hints - Ruth Grieco	39
My Plant, the Doctor -	
A Medical Miracle - Frank Martin	40
Planting by Moon Signs	41
Regional Reviews - Pat Richards	42
Tips From Texas	45
Watering	46
Plants, plants, plants...aargh... - Ruth Coulson	47
Baking Soil	49
Natural Gardens - Ruth Goeke	51
Guidelines For Judging - Bob Green	52
Growing Large Show Plants - Marie Burns	53
Show Manners - Pauline Bartholomew	54



DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	5
"And the Winners are..." - Mary Corondan	5
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	6
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	8
For Beginners: AV School Time	
(Part 1) - Kent & Joyce Stork	10
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	12
In Memory	17
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	26
Showcase	28
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	30
Color Photo	32
AVSA and Affiliates - Bev Promersberger	34
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	35

AVSA Building and	
Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	35
Registration Report - Iris Keating	38
Coming Events	48
AVSA and Today's Technologies - John Carter	49
AVSA Commercials: A Closer Look -	
Mighty Minis - David Buttram	50
Membership Application	63

COVER

Rainbow's Quiet Riot

Best Fantasy

Best In Class,

1997 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Phyllis King**

Hybridizer: **R. Wasmund**

Photo Credit: **Gus Francisco**



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

A & W Violets 63
 Acree Creations 57
 AGGS 61
 Alannah's AV's 62
 American Orchid Society 59
 AV Enterprises Press 61
 AVS of Canada 59
 AVSA Address Labels 57

B

Bayou Violets 59
 Belisle's Violet House 63
 Bluebird Greenhouses 58

C

Cape Cod Violetry 55
 Cryptanthus Society 59

D

Dyna Gro 61

E

Evergreen Violets 59

F

Florals of Fredericks 57

G

Garden Check 63

H

Hattie Baggett's
 African Violets 64
 Herbal Garden Ceramics 64
 Hobby Greenhouse 58

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 64

J

JF Industries 57

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents 58
 Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses . . . 62

M

Mighty Minis 59
 Mudhole Productions 63

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Patch 63
 Pat's Pets 59

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 60
 Rozell Nursery 57

S

Shirley's House of Violets 56
 Sonja's AV's 64
 Susan's Desert Violets 63

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 64
 Teas Nursery 61
 Toni's Home Nursery 58
 Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover
 Travis' Violets 63

V

Violets by Appointment 64
 Violets, Etc 64
 Violet House . . . Inside Back Cover
 Violet Rainbow II 63
 Violet Showcase 56
 Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses . . 58

W

Jim Wildman 58



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
 1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydl@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

By the time you receive this issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, our annual AVSA Convention, "Discover California," will be over. I hope that all those who attended had a wonderful week discovering the beautiful scenery, panning for gold, shopping for gold in Old Sacramento and Nevada City, sampling gold jelly beans from the Jelly Belly factory, and of course discovering the many golden treasures in the Commercial Sales Room and the Show Room. As I write this letter, registration is about 400, with great participation in the tours and other activities offered. Details from the convention will be included in the July issue of the AVM, including the winners of the show and business conducted during the Annual Business Meeting and the meetings of the Board of Directors.

The office staff has been especially busy with convention registrations and member renewals. Approximately half of our membership renews during the first four months of the year. During that time, two magazines must be mailed. Therefore, it is very important that you get your renewals in early so you do not miss an issue of the magazine. The new computer system has made convention registration much easier since member address information does not have to be reentered.

Membership is always important to AVSA, just as it is to our Councils and Affiliates. We have several new members join every month. Many are the results of recruiting efforts at shows and sales sponsored by our affiliates. The number of new members responding to our web site is also increasing. However, we seem to be losing almost as many members who are not renewing. Our new computer system will help us analyze our membership retention so we can better address this situation. We all must make an effort to retain our members and encourage new members to join. This effort is much easier to address at your local level than on an international level.

Ruth continues to put together an outstanding magazine. The articles and ideas that you contribute are greatly appreciated. Please support our AVM advertisers and let them know that you have seen their advertisement in the magazine. This lets them know that their advertising dollars are effective. If you are a commercial member and do not advertise in the AVM, I encourage you to contact our Advertising Manager, Judy Carter, or refer to the March/April issue for advertising information. Revenue from AVM advertising has declined over the past several years, which means that the cost for printing and postage must come from elsewhere.

Traffic on the new web site continues to increase, thanks to the efforts of our Internet Committee. A new feature that started in late March is an African violet "Photo of the Day" page. Be sure to check this out whenever you sign on to the web. Many thanks to all who have provided affiliate contact information. The new *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* (Judges' Handbook) and the new *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (MVL #8) are now available from the AVSA Office in Beaumont, TX and on the African Violet Store page on the new web site. Be sure to get your orders in early.

As you receive this issue, I will be completing my first year as your President. During that time, we have faced many challenges and have made significant progress on several projects. I want to express my appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Committee Chairmen for their hard work and dedication. They devote a great deal of time and energy to AVSA. I also want to thank the general membership for your support of AVSA and all of our projects. I look forward to meeting and corresponding with more of you during the next year.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells
Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rumsey@earthlink.net

As you make plans for your summer vacation, be sure to study this year's **Vacation Guide**, compiled for us by **David Buttram** (page 18). The Commercial Members who responded look forward to hearing from you. Thanks to all of our Commercial Members who support the AVM with advertising, and to our Advertising Manager, **Judy Carter**, for the fine job she is doing.

On page 42, find the second installment of our **Regional Reviews** for 1998, compiled by **Pat Richards**, our "Thinking Small" columnist. Once again, successful African violet growers share their secrets for success. Thank you, Pat for all the time devoted to compiling these reviews. In this installment, we hear from **Bev Promersberger** of Colorado, **Darryl Hoover** in California, and last year's sweepstakes winner at the National Show, **Phyllis King** of Florida. Others sharing their growing methods are **Palma Trapp** of Minnesota, **Irene Henry** of Canada and **Ken'ichi Okishita** from Tokyo, Japan.

These Regional Reviews will be an annual feature and Pat will be contacting other experienced growers to participate in this project. So don't be surprised if you hear from her!

I must thank all the affiliated clubs who share their publications with me. You've probably noticed how many articles in this magazine are reprinted from these publications. I hope some of these gifted writers will consider writing for the AVM, and I must appeal again to **all of you** to contribute to the magazine. We all enjoy reading the experiences of others in the AV world, as well as discovering new growing methods.

You will find a couple of good articles on trailers in this issue. On page 14, **Dr. Jeff Smith**, our "In Search of New Violets" columnist, shares **Some Experiences in Hybridizing With the Species - Trailers**.

Our "Question Box" columnist, **Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson**, is featured in **Notes on Trailing African Violets**. Given as a presentation at the MAAVS Convention in 1996, this one is for all growers interested in trailers.

Another presentation turned into an informative article is from a talk given by **Marie Burns** at the 1997 Dixie Convention. In **Growing Large Show Plants**, Marie shares her methods for producing those gorgeous plants for which she's so well known.

If you would like to have a photograph of an outstanding plant that appear in the AVM, either a winner from your club show or one that you've hybridized, please send me **color slide or transparency**. If you photograph such a plant, please make sure that only the plant is in the picture. Remove all name tags, and remove all other plants from the table so we don't have a busy background or leaves from other plants appearing at the sides. Please don't send photographs of plants, unless they are being held by someone and are destined for the "Members" page that we feature from time to time.

If you are responsible for your club's publicity, and are posting your future events on the AVSA web site, please remember to also send the information to me for the African Violet Magazine. And please adhere to the deadlines listed on the inside front cover, on the AVSA Business page.

Bev Promersberger, our Affiliate Club Chairman, is to be commended for the excellent job she is doing. Her Affiliate column (page 34) will be addressing topics important to all affiliate members. If you have questions, problems, or ideas to share, please contact Bev.

If you recall a favorite article from the past, that you would like to see reprinted, please let me know. As always, your suggestions or ideas to help improve this publication are always welcome.



Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

Another great convention has come and gone. Those of you who were unable to attend really missed a treat. We owe a great deal of thanks to Barbara Elkin, Convention Chair, and her team, and to Jean Hatfield, Show Chair, and her team for all the work they did to bring a memorable convention to so many. We are also grateful to the exhibitors for bringing their beautiful plants and designs and to the judges, clerks, consultants, and awards committee for the efforts they put forth to see that the show could open on time.

If one just attends and enjoys a beautiful show and has never worked "behind the scenes" they probably have no idea of the vast amount of hard work it takes to bring this event about. If you enjoyed the convention and show, send a card to Barbara and Jean and let them share with all their workers that their efforts were appreciated.

Hopefully, many of you purchased your new Judges Handbook and Master Variety List at the convention. If not,

please order them from the AVSA office. You are sure to enjoy the new format of the Master Variety List, and the Handbook has undergone major revisions. Because of this, we strongly suggest that you purchase a new one rather than try to make the manual corrections to your existing copy. Page numbers have changed and some sections have been eliminated or revised so it would be extremely difficult and messy to attempt to update. The Shows and Judges committee is hopeful that this reprint will not need revisions for a while. We don't like to mess up our new books either! The 1998 Senior Judges Exam will be written from this latest revision of the Handbook, so if you are taking the exam this year you will really need the revision.

We will tell you about all the questions and discussions that took place at the Judges Breakfast and the Teachers Breakfast in the September/October column. Take care of your plants during the summer heat and we'll visit again in September.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA - Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Harlequin, Fredette's Moonflower, Bud's Melanie; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder, **Carroll Gealy**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Arlene Pappas**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Green Corduroy'; Best

Design, **Leslie Cox**.

TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ - Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chris Leppard, Red Robe, Phantom Flash; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Definitely Darryl, Optimara Little Aztec; Best Standard: Red Robe; Best species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Gary Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Summer Coral, Grandma's Zach, Favorite Child; Best Design, **Rhona Thurman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Red Bandito, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly'; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn D. Cichocki**.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

In the 50 years that African violets have been extremely manipulated by hybridizers, these hairy-leaved plants with blue flowers have exploded into a rainbow of flower colors and foliage types. In our hobby's drive for anything "new", many types of African violets have come and gone. Hopefully, many of the plants from our heritage are being preserved as "Vintage Violets", but it is often interesting to hear the comments of growers who have been away from violets for a long time, such as the writer of our first question.

Q: *I have just recently returned to growing violets. In my 20 year lapse, I have noticed that there isn't nearly as much variety in the foliage as there was "back then". Why is this?*

A: Welcome back to growing African violets! There have been a number of changes in the plants over the last 20 years. I would suggest that "selection" has been the reason for the reduction in foliage types. Past growers of African violets wanted to have as many unusual violets as possible. Thus, foliage types such as longifolia, spooned, and bustled were eagerly sought and a large number of these plants were available on the market. Many of today's growers seek other characteristics in their plants, such as how the plant shapes and behaves when grown for show. Because the older foliage types are often more difficult to grow for show, they have been dropped from many collections. Those who grow plants to sell, generally wish to market those cultivars that are appealing to many growers so that they can make a profit. If the older varieties don't sell, they won't be grown. Over the process of time, "selection" has eliminated many of the more unusual foliage types from the market in favor of foliage that shapes well for show. Fortunately, many of the older cultivars are still appreciated by some growers and a thriving interest in the "Vintage

Violets" will help preserve these older treasures.

Q: *The first baby I've "made" from a leaf cutting has had its first bloom. The parent had rose-pink flowers, but the baby has flowers that are white with a yellow blush in the center. Is this baby a sport?*

A: When a new plant produced by a leaf cutting does not bloom true to the parent, there is a good possibility that a sport has been produced. However, I would recommend that the plant be grown through several blooming cycles to see if the bloom color remains different from the parent. Some of the light pink or rose flowered plants will produce near-white flowers under certain environmental conditions such as cooler temperatures. If the baby retains its new color especially when grown under several conditions, then it may be a sport. A further proof of sporting would be if leaf cuttings of the baby continue to produce the new color.

Q: *Can sports revert back to the original plant?*

A: Yes, sports will sometimes sport back to the original plant by reversing the original mutation. The genetic term for this is a "back mutation". This can occur in the first generation taken from the sport or several generations later.

Q: *Several leaves on one side of a non-variegated plant have developed streaks of variegation in them. Could leaf cuttings of these leaves produce fully variegated babies?*

A: African violets (and also other plants) will sometimes produce leaves or areas of spontaneous variegation. Portions of the growing center have mutated and some of the leaf cells are unable to produce chlorophyll, giving non-green or variegated areas. Attempts to reproduce the variegation usually fail because the

mutation is only in some of the leaf cells. However, do try to reproduce the variegation and see what happens. You might keep the petiole very short so that the new plants arise more directly from the leaf blade. This might increase the chance of getting a mutated cell to start the new plant and producing a fully variegated offspring. Let us know if you are successful. There is always room for more types of variegated plants.

Q: *How would I make a cross to produce a coral colored fantasy plant?*

A: You should be able to produce a coral colored fantasy plant in two generations. First, cross your best fantasy plant with your best coral plant. About half of the first generation plants will be fantasy, but will be in non-coral colors. Select the best fantasy offspring and back-cross them to the coral parent. About half of these

offspring will be in coral colors and about half of these will also be fantasy plants. Therefore, about 25% of the backcross offspring should be coral colored fantasy plants.

Q: *How would I breed for green flowers?*

A: Green flowers should be a recessive mutation in African violets and is best expressed when in combination with white flower color. I would try either breeding green flowered plants together, or crossing a green flowered plant with a strong white. The offspring of this cross could be inbred or backcrossed to the green flowered parent. Green flowers are also temperature sensitive and the color develops more strongly in plants grown under cool conditions. You should grow any seedlings in cooler areas so that the amount of green they produce can be fully evaluated. Good luck!

TIMELY TIPS

1. Pay particular attention to watering of African violets in summer. Always check the surface of the potting mix even if you are wick watering. Sometimes wicks fail in hot weather leaving a dry plant sitting on top of a full reservoir of water.
2. Use a little less fertilizer in very hot weather (or occasionally use plain water instead of solution) to avoid burn of roots and center leaves.
3. African violets grow very quickly in the hot weather and will soon entwine themselves with their neighbors on the shelf. Try to keep them apart, even if it means occasionally removing a row of leaves. Overlapping plants will easily become distorted and lose their neat growing habit. If plants are too crowded they will also become a prey to pests and diseases.
4. Watch the centers of your plants for any signs of mites. They are always prevalent at this time of the year.
5. Plant leaves of any varieties you want to propagate. Propagation is much more rapid and reliable in the summer. Variegated types, in particular, should be planted now as they will be more successful if the plantlets are mature enough to be potted out well in advance of the winter.
6. If you plan a few weeks away from home during the summer, be sure to water all plants well and fill all reservoirs just before leaving. If you plan to be absent for three to four weeks you will probably only need a friend to refill reservoirs once in that time. If you remove all flowers before you go, you will return to fresh flowers and buds rather than to the job of removing a lot of dead flowers.
7. If you find your plants are becoming distressed on the hottest days, turn your lights off during the middle of the day. You may decide to run your lights at night rather than during the day during a real heat wave, but even if not, you will find it better to have the lights on less than have too much heat generated.
8. You should have selected any plants that are potential show entries by now. Try to make sure they have plenty of space, the premium position for light, and pay particular attention to their watering, fertilizing and grooming.
9. Take time to look at your African violets and enjoy them.

*Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet",
Official Journal of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.*

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

First, some good news of a personal nature. Of course, by the time this column appears, it will also be old news. But here it is - I've gotten married this past December, to a wonderful woman who just happens to share the same passion for violets. Her name is Olive, and those who've attended any recent AVSA convention may have met her. For the remainder, she's the nominee for international director to the AVSA board. As might be guessed, we met through our common interest in violets - both of us owning our own violet business. We now share one business as well as a life together. All of us grow violets for they joy the bring us - it seems they've brought the two of us more happiness than most.

As always, my busy schedule means that I can't promise a personal reply to letters or e-mail received. However, any phone calls made during normal business hours will be gladly taken since, with cordless phones, we can "talk and walk" at the same time. E-mail can be sent to robsviolet@aol.com or sent via our web site at www.robsviolet.com. The site also includes plenty of cultural information and basic "how to" lessons that may be of interest.

QUESTION: *I have an ongoing problem with the outside leaves becoming limp and soft, then dying. The plants never become large because of the constant loss of outside leaves. The plants are wick watered and are grown 3-5 inches from the light.*

ANSWER: This is one of the most common problems that we get mail and phone calls about. Though wicking can be a convenient and proper method for watering violets, it can cause problems if not done properly. Most often, the soil mix that is used is not "light" or porous enough for wick-watering. Too heavy a soil can lead to an unhealthy root system and loss of outer leaves. Since plants are being kept constantly moist with this method, a *very* light soil mix needs to be used. I would recommend a *soilless* (containing no topsoil) mix be used consisting



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

of 50%, perhaps more, perlite. A general rule of thumb regarding mixes should be: the wetter you plan to keep the soil, the lighter the mix should be. Though I'm not suggesting this, one could grow violets in nothing but perlite and vermiculite. I've seen beautiful (wicked) showplants grown in this kind of mix.

Though probably not the cause of the leaf loss, these violets are also receiving too much light. Lights should be much farther than 3 - 5 inches from the plant tops. Plants grown this closely, even if otherwise healthy, won't grow as large. Center growth will tend to be crowded and leaf size smaller. This is particularly true for most standard-size varieties, which need less light than do most miniature varieties. The distance from the lights will vary among growers, but this is ours: 10" from tubes to pot rim for minis (and semis), and 18" for standards.

QUESTION: *I'd like information regarding ratio of pot size to plant.*

ANSWER: Though this question came by mail, this is probably the most frequently asked question in the shop. One of the most common mistakes the novice grower makes is to pot their violet into too large a pot, assuming that every repotting means potting into the next size pot. Having said that, it's not true that an African violet needs to be "pot bound". What a violet needs, in fact what most houseplants need, is a pot just large enough to accommodate its root system. It is the size of the *root system* that determines pot size, not the size of the plant. The example I like to give is that of a cactus. It may be larger than the person growing it but its root system could fit nicely into a 8 or 10 inch pot.

Generally speaking, most standard varieties, when grown as houseplants (not for exhibition) will do quite well in a 4" pot. Most semiminatures can be grown in pots no larger than 2 1/2" and most miniatures in 2 or 2 1/4" pots. Since violets tend to be relatively shallow-rooted, azalea pots (pots slightly less deep than wide) are

preferable. Unless you notice that the root system is crowded in its present pot, there's no need to use a larger size. This would be the case if you noticed very dense root growth around the outside of the root ball when the plant is removed from its pot. No matter the size of the pot, violets normally should be repotted into fresh soil, at least twice each year. This will allow new roots to grow, keeping the root system, and therefore the plant, healthier.

QUESTION: *About a year ago at a show, I bought a beautiful chimera, 'The Alps'. It has bloomed profusely since then but now seems to be reverting to solid blue flowers. What can I do now?*

ANSWER: As a commercial, this is the type of question we get very frequently from growers. Often times a chimera, fantasy, or multicolor blossomed variety will turn a solid (or different) color, even though it was blooming "true" when purchased. Unfortunately, this is the nature of many such unusually-colored varieties. The same genetic nature of these varieties that makes them so unusual also makes them more unstable. In fact, many of the pinwheel-blossomed (chimera) varieties that are now available first appeared as sport, or genetic mutations, of a multicolor or fantasy-blossomed variety. Sometimes a chimera will revert to its original form - some of my plants of 'The Alps', for example, have also reverted to a solid color (in my case, white flowers).

The advice is preventative. Blooms are more likely to turn a solid (or different) color when the plant is stressed in some way. Most often this will mean too warm a growing environment and is a common problem during the summer for those growers without air conditioning. Less likely forms of stress include over fertilization, too much light, improper water or soil pH, or a toxic reaction to an insecticide or other chemicals. If you've grown the variety before, and it has a history of being unstable, or you can't provide a less stressful environment, a little "insurance" might be wise. Put down a few leaves (or crown, if a chimera) of those varieties that are most likely to "sport", keeping in mind that not all the plantlets produced by those leaves may be true in color. This way, you're likely to have young plants ready of the variety when the inevitable finally happens.

QUESTION: *The leaves of my violets are curling downward and center growth appears very crowded. There is no evidence of mite, and I suspect it may be the cold temperature in my growing area.*

ANSWER: This question has been paraphrased from two almost identical questions received on the same day. Yes, the problem is likely the cold growing environment. When grown in very cool conditions many violets will

exhibit symptoms similar to those of cyclamen mites. Center growth will be very tight or bunched, leaves will be more "hairy", and growth will be stunted. So before discarding any plants or using toxic chemicals ask yourself if cold temperatures may be the cause.

How cold is too cold? As with many things this depends partly upon the variety being grown. For example, many of the species violets will tolerate temperatures much lower than will the modern hybrids. Growers of *S. goetzeana* have been known to place the plant in unheated rooms or up against cold windows, since this species seems only able to bloom (then rarely) when grown in very cool temperatures. For most modern varieties temperatures above 60°F are usually enough, though barely so. For our showplants, we find the "ideal" temperature range seems to be between about 62°F and 70°F. Growth is slower, but leaf variegation is better, blossoms will be much larger and longer lasting, and the blossom colors will be much more intense and bright. That said, violets generally prefer the same temperatures that you do — "if you're comfortable, so is your violet".

QUESTION: *When I bring home new plants, can I repot them immediately into my own pots and soil?*

ANSWER: There are differing opinions on this. Some commercial sellers tell their customers not to do this in order to let the violets become accustomed to their new environment before changing pots or soil. I agree, but find that when I keep plants in different soil mixes, this eventually does more harm than good. Since soil mixes dry out at differing rates, these plants always seem to need watering at times different from the others. Unless their special needs can be accommodated, they always seem to end up being too wet or too dry. Speaking for myself, "special" care often translates into "not enough" care - i.e. neglect.

Before continuing, remember that it's always wise to isolate newly acquired plants as much as possible from the rest of your collection, while any problems that it might be bringing with it have time to show themselves. That said, probably the best advice is to give the newly acquired plant a short period of time to recover from unpacking (if its been shipped), and to get used to its new environment. This shouldn't take very long, perhaps a week. After this, there should be no reason it couldn't be repotted into a pot of the appropriate size and desired type with fresh soil, using the same mix as your other violets. Once this is done, it can begin receiving the same culture on the same schedule as your other violets.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!

Part one of a two part series.

Mastering the culture of African violets is a little like going to school. Just when you have mastered one level, and think you're pretty smart, you realize there is yet another level to attain. Some drop out as soon as they complete elementary study, while others go on to get their violet diplomas. We'd like to encourage you to think about going to "violet college" too!

ELEMENTARY SKILLS

There are really only two elementary skills involved in keeping an African violet alive. You must give them enough light, and you must learn how much water is enough.

How much is enough light? In nature, *Saintpaulia* species (the original African violet) grew quite near the equator. The light was quite bright, but diffused by the overhang of other much taller plants and trees. They enjoyed a fairly consistent twelve hours of daylight in that setting. The violets we grow today seem to do best when that light situation is replicated.

The light needs to be bright enough to cast a distinct shadow, but it must not be direct sunlight that can cause the temperature to rise above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Some direct sunlight is fine as long as temperatures are maintained near 72 degrees. When growing at a window, it is generally wise to remember that most interior light is too dim for growing violets except for locations that are within arm's length of the window. Windows that are away from the sun (on the north in the northern hemisphere) will not be bright enough unless plants are right next to the window. Please note, that the light is automatically less bright in locations that are further away from the equator and nearer the Arctic (or Antarctic) Circle.

The length of the daylight is also very important. Nearly equal hours of light and darkness is what nature provided and so twelve hours of light is an excellent guideline. However, if the light is not bright, violets will need more hours of daylight, up to about sixteen. If the light is quite intense, violets can do well on as little as eight hours. In either case, the hours of darkness are needed! Important

things happen inside your plants when the lights are out!

Many violet growers like to use artificial light rather than depending on windows (where weather can greatly affect the quality and intensity of the light). Fluorescent tubes provide excellent light when they are set at a distance of ten to fifteen inches from the top of the leaves and kept illuminated from ten to fourteen hours a day.

You'll know that the lighting is correct when the leaves lay horizontally (as opposed to reaching upward) and when plants are frequently blooming.

Watering is the second elementary skill to master. You need to water enough to keep plants alive, but not so much that the soil is saturated and the roots have no air. While violets will tolerate almost anything between those two extremes, they thrive when the soil is kept evenly moist.

When watering each plant individually, you will find that once a week is often enough. Sufficient water should be applied to cause some water to drain out the bottom of the pot. This excess water should then be poured off. Using this method, one can be fairly certain that the soil was saturated adequately but not excessively.

As collections increase, it is often too time-consuming to water each plant individually. For that reason, many growers move on to a system that provides water to their plants constantly. Wicking, capillary matting, and specially designed pots all will perform this task successfully.

There are advantages to using some system for constant watering. Violets that are in full bloom will use more water than plants that are not blooming. Larger plants need more water too. Changing atmospheric conditions can also cause plants to need varying amounts of water. A constant water system will provide whatever amounts of water are demanded by plants. It is very hard to guess at these needs when watering each plant individually.

There are some disadvantages as well. Pests and disease can spread much faster when there is a common source of water. Even when the water reservoirs are individualized, there are problems as plants grow into one another more quickly. Since growers using this method do

not have to handle plants so often, disease and pests can invade unnoticed. It is also a nuisance when algae starts growing in the water.

The quality of water can make a difference as well. Softened water has salt in it which should not be used on African violets. Some communities have poor quality water supplies which have extreme pH levels or contain pollutants or salts that are harmful to plants. Reverse osmosis water systems seem to help, but many times the only solution is to purchase bottled water. Rain water is sometimes suggested but there is an art involved in collecting rain water. Insects, bird droppings, and other substances need to be flushed off the roof by the first downpour of rain before collecting begins. If the rain is gentle or drizzly, this flushing will not occur. Direct collection in open buckets can be used, but it won't yield as much water. Furthermore, if your area is prone to acid rain, you may not wish to use that water anyway.

Master the two skills of light and water, and you could drop out of Violet School right now. Your violets will stay alive most of the time and sometimes even look pretty good. Want to do better than that? Time to go back to school!

SECONDARY SCHOOL

There are three new basic skills to learn at this second level. You must learn how to use fertilizer, how to choose good soil, and what pots to use. Along with that comes the need to understand the finer points of your elementary education.

Fertilizer has miraculous effects on plants. It can also cause disasters. Violets will survive without these extra nutrients, but they grow and bloom surprisingly well when they are fed. Overdo it and the plants may die with surprising speed.

Plant fertilizers are formulated for specific plants in specific situations. Each type will list the three major elements contained in their formulation using a system of three numbers with dashes in between (15-30-15 for example). The first number identifies the amount of nitrogen; the second identifies phosphorus, and the third is potassium. The label may also list some trace elements. Additionally the label will identify the source of the fertilizer.

There is a lot of discussion regarding the best fertilizer. Some growers like to use high phosphorus formulations, while others do not. Most brands labeled for African violets will provide most of the nutritional needs of violets in most situations. Some have better formulations for trace elements, and some are made from higher quality sources, but virtually all are better than no fertilizer at all.

When using any fertilizer it is important to follow directions. Never use more than the package suggests. If anything, use less, especially when using a constant water system that permits water to evaporate, resulting in fertilizer concentrations that are too strong.

Fertilizers are all essentially the same. Don't be tempted to believe all of the "miracle" claims of plant products. Most are just fertilizers. Mixing them together and using them at the same time can cause overdoses that will result in fertilizer burn.

Getting the right potting mix is one of the more challenging skills of growing violets well. Violets require very light mixes if their roots are to develop fully, especially if a constant water system is being used. This porous texture is very conducive to improved flowering as well.

Garden dirt is rarely acceptable, especially because of the possibility of nematodes entering your collection in that way. Nematodes are insects that are commonly present in the ground, which can move into the root system of plants with fatal effects. Furthermore, most garden soils are too heavy for roots to thrive.

Instead, most commercial growers today recommend a potting mix that has no actual dirt in it at all. The mixes are a combination of materials that provide little nutrition to plants, but provide a good environment for roots. Most commonly in the United States, these mixes contain milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss (usually just called peat), horticultural coarse perlite, and coarse vermiculite. Other ingredients may be added (charcoal, wetting agents, or nutrients) but the peat, perlite and vermiculite are most important.

Peat is an organic material that absorbs water and nutrients and is nonabrasive around delicate roots (unlike sand). Its quality can usually be determined by its color—from light brown and coarse (excellent) to black and smeary (awful). Perlite is an excellent material to use when the soil mix needs to be loose and well aerated. Vermiculite will also absorb water and nutrients as peat does while providing good texture in a manner similar to perlite. The last two tend to be more predictably good.

Many other materials are being experimented with for potting mixes including Styrofoam balls, coconut fiber, rock wool, and polymers. As world supplies of the peat, perlite and vermiculite are depleted, it is likely that these alternative materials will be used more and more.

The recipe for combining the basic materials varies from crop to crop. Tall tropical plants need heavier soils to stabilize them in their pots. African violets grow horizontally so they don't need stabilization. Instead, the focus is on providing an extremely porous (airy) mix for the delicate root structure of violets. Using equal parts of each of the basic three (peat, vermiculite, and perlite) will give a very light, good quality mix for violets.

If you are using a constant water system, it is especially important to use a mix that is very loose so that the soil does not absorb more water than is good for your violets. Greenhouses growing violets that will be sold in various retail outlets often use a heavier mix. If you buy African violets from a local retail store, it is recommended

that they be transplanted into a more porous soil before wicking or matting is used.

Choosing the right pot seems so simple but it requires a little math skill. Measure the distance across the top of the plant to find the diameter of the foliage and divide by 3. That will tell you the correct diameter of the pot. In other words, the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span. Why? Because African violets generally develop root balls that are only a third the size of the foliage.

How deep should the pot be? Generally the pot should never be deeper than its diameter and not more than four or five inches deep, even for the biggest plants. Violets have fairly shallow root structures that will seldom grow deeper than that.

Getting the pot to fit the exact size of the rootball will generally encourage your violet to bloom at the earliest possible age. There is a subtle relationship between well-developed and confined roots and excellent blooming. Maybe you've heard the old saying that violets like to be pot-bound. It's true. Get a good fit, and your violets will bloom better.

Does it matter what the pot is made of — clay or plastic? If your pots are made of a porous material like clay, the water will be lost more quickly. This is helpful if you tend to overwater. If you are going to use a constant water method, you should not use clay pots. Clay pots tend to develop annoying salt and mineral deposits which are exacerbated by wicking.

Plastic or glazed ceramic pots work well. Plastic is generally less expensive and easier to clean, although it is less decorative.

Once you've mastered these secondary skills, you are ready for your Violet High School diploma. Good work! Ready to quit learning? You know more than most of the public, and your violets are looking really fine most of the time. Do you know everything? Not even close! On to Violet College!

("African Violet School Time" will conclude in the July/August issue.)

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

The Booster Fund Committee would like to extend much earned kudos to the individuals and affiliates who sponsored some of the Booster Fund special projects in 1997.

We would like to congratulate the Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY, PA) for their generosity that enabled AVSA to purchase a memorial plaque to honor the memory of Lizeta Hamilton. Lizeta was a resident of New Jersey, a long time member of the Council. She was instrumental in starting the Building Fund.

Many "Thank You's" are extended to the affiliates from the state

of Ohio, for forwarding the money on a state level to replace the fax machine at the Beaumont office. Their enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

A distinctive applause to the individuals, friends and affiliates from the state of Colorado who sponsored the project to honor the memory of Nell-Sue Tyson. Nell-Sue was a resident of Colorado and a devoted Chairman of the AVSA Building Fund. A plaque will also be installed at the Beaumont property to honor her. Donations are still being accepted on this special Booster Fund project.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 5 DECEMBER - 31 DECEMBER 1998

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO \$25.00

Towards the memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson

Anonymous, Hawaii \$50.00

Anna R. Noe, Winthrop, MA \$10.00

Mr. Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong, China \$10.00

Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY \$10.00

Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA \$10.00

Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Amy Trept, Arlington, TX \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Spring, CO \$5.00

Rebecca Tipton, Jonesboro, GA \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

Pat Richards, Olathe, KS \$5.00

AOL AVC apply towards the technology drive

James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI \$25.00

Ethel Spurlin, Mililani, HI \$20.00

Towards the computer upgrade

WI Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee, WI \$25.00

In fond memory of Helen Geisler

Pat Richards, Olathe, KS \$10.00

In Memory of Inez Heinrich

Hi Country Judges Workshop, Denver, CO \$10.00

In memory of Albert (Stan) Standcliff

Irene Merrell, Oconomowoc, WI \$25.00

Towards the computer up-grade in loving memory of a great friend, Helen Geisler

Onalee H. McEven, Houston, TX \$2.50

Mrs. Orlando O. Sisler, Montgomery, AL \$10.00

Edna Snow, Chicago, IL \$20.00

Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society, Erie, CO \$25.00

To be applied to the plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson

Irma Mejia, Woodbridge, VA \$10.00

Agnes J. McLaughlin, Coralville, IA \$2.00

AVS of South Bay, Cupertino, CA \$25.00

Mary Beall, Austin, TX \$50.00

In memory of Mr. B. A. Wilkins, beloved husband of Dorothy Wilkins

Carroll R. McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA \$12.00

Stella A. Richardson, Riverside, CA \$5.00

Christine Davis, Harrison, ME \$5.00

Frankie Pletzer, Beaumont, TX \$10.00

Judith Clendenin, Menlo Park, CA \$20.00

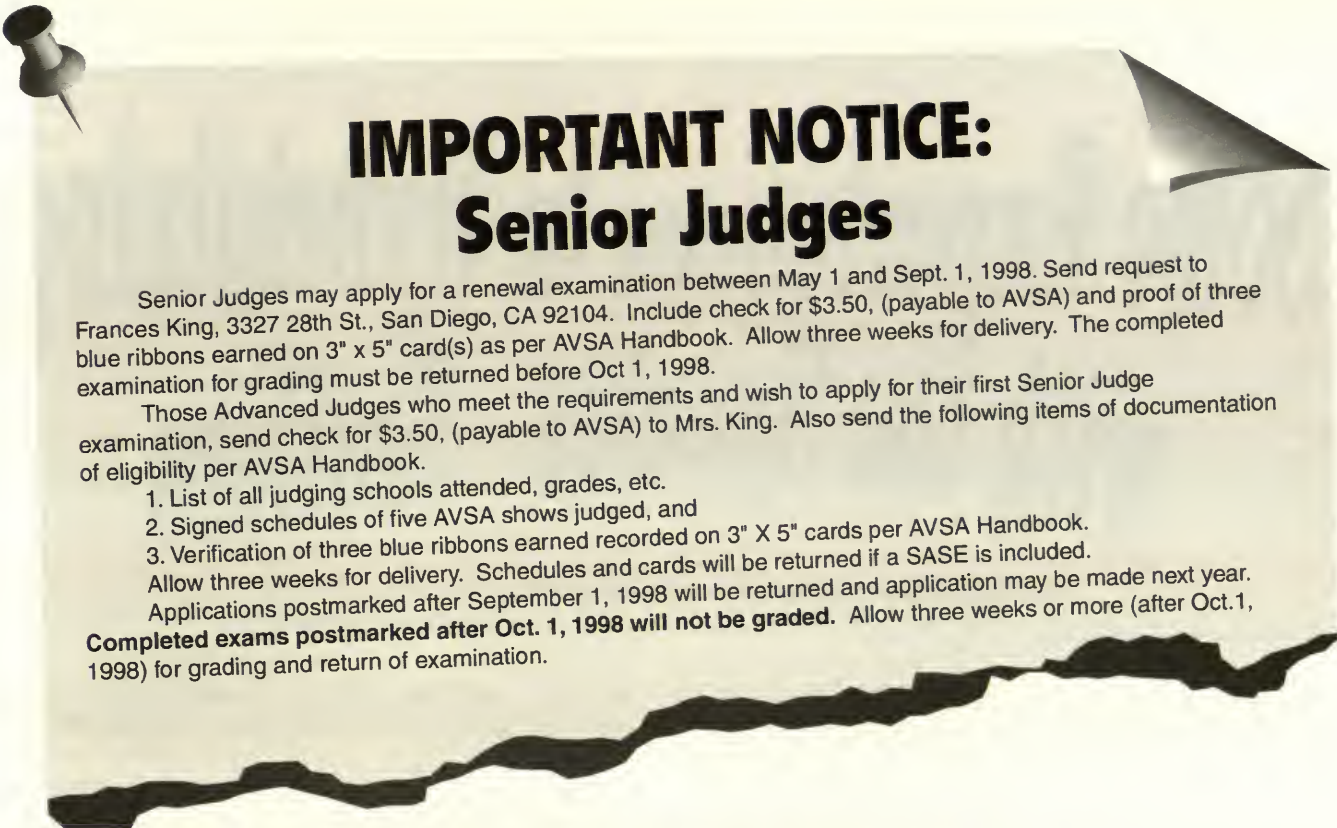
Bakersfield AVS, Bakersfield, CA \$25.00

Doris A. Jolley, Batesville, MS \$10.00

Helen Handwerk, Lakewood, CO \$20.00

To be applied to the Nell-Sue Tyson memorial

Total \$506.50



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Senior Judges

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and Sept. 1, 1998. Send request to Frances King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. Include check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) and proof of three blue ribbons earned on 3" x 5" card(s) as per AVSA Handbook. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination for grading must be returned before Oct 1, 1998.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.

2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and

3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned recorded on 3" X 5" cards per AVSA Handbook.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included.

Applications postmarked after September 1, 1998 will be returned and application may be made next year.

Completed exams postmarked after Oct. 1, 1998 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 1998) for grading and return of examination.

AFRICAN VIOLET SPORTS

by Sue Gardner • Australia

What is a sport?

Sporting in a plant is a mutation or genetic change which produces a plant radically different from the parent plant.

What is not a sport?

A change in a plant characteristic that varies or reverts to the original is NOT a sport. An example of this is solid color blooms on a fantasy in hot weather only. Another example is when flowers or foliage are paler due to lack of fertilizer or light, or incorrect pH, but which revert when improved.

What does sporting produce?

Sporting could be a change in blossom shape, color or color pattern. It could also be a change in foliage color, type, shape or size.

African violets, are often called "genetically unstable" and this is why they sport quite frequently. Without sporting we would not have such variety in our plants.

Sporting produced the following African violet types:

White flowers

Double flowers

Variegated plants (Tommie Lou was the first in 1959)

Girl foliage (Blue Girl was the first)

Chimera

Yellow colored flowers

The yellow violet was caused by a change in a pigment as no yellow pigment was present in original violets. Sometimes sporting occurs in part of a plant. I have a trailer which has become variegated in about one quarter of the foliage.

If a fantasy becomes solid color and then leaf cuttings produce plants with solid color flowers, the plant can be considered a sport.

Often one particular variety will produce sports for many growers. An example of this is 'Colonial Port Arthur', which has sported to the same chimera for many people.

Always remember to name your plant correctly if it is a sport. Write the name of the original plant followed by the word sport (——— sport.).

The worst scenario about sporting is when a favorite plant sports to one not as spectacular. But the best case is when a lovely new violet is produced.

*Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the
Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Australia*

Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Species - Trailers

Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

Over the past several years, I have been experimenting with the use of some of the *Saintpaulia* species plants in hybridization projects. The results have certainly been interesting from the scientific viewpoint, but may also serve as an indicator for the future of hybridizing in African violets. A good example of this future can be found by examining the results of some projects with the trailing *Saintpaulia* species.

Almost all of today's trailing African violets can be traced back to two species, *S. grotei* and *S. magungensis* var. *minima*. The original work with trailers was done by Frank and Anne Tinari with *S. grotei* in the early 1950's. The first trailers were standards which took a great deal of room to grow and had limited flower colors. Part of the difficulty in hybridizing the early trailers was that the trailing habit was usually lost when a trailer was crossed with a non-trailer. Only by repeated back-crossing to the trailer parent or breeding the offspring together could the trailer habit be maintained. Keeping the trailer habit while selecting for other traits such as flower color or blooming ability was difficult, therefore, relatively few trailers were developed. Unfortunately, the first trailers were released at the same time as the first double pink violets and the trailers did not catch the public's interest.

Interest in trailers didn't really get started until Lyndon Lyon developed a number of miniature and semi-miniature trailers in the 1960's using the species *S. magungensis* var. *minima*. This species is a miniature which allowed the resulting offspring to be much smaller in size than the hybrids developed from *S. grotei*. The trailing growth form also disappeared in the first generation, but inbreeding could and did restore the trailing habit as well as adding in other flower colors such as pink. This time, public interest in the trailers took hold

and has continued to grow. However, all of today's trailers can be traced to the same two species for the trailing growth habit.

My original interest in using other species for trailing growth form came from some plant material sent to me by Mr. Dave Rose. Dave had used several different species in some hybridization work, including the natural *Saintpaulia* hybrid 'Sigi Falls'. 'Sigi Falls' is a weak trailing species with small single blue flowers. The leaves are large, very thick in texture, and have a tendency to change color in the mid-rib during the day. A cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Sapphire Halo' produced some offspring with double blue flowers, but no trailing habit. A cross of 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' produced offspring with single blue flowers, and a weak trailing habit. The leaves of the offspring from both crosses, however, tended to show the shape and other characteristics of 'Sigi Falls'.

One offspring from the 'Sigi Falls' X 'Fickle Flirt' cross is being further evaluated. This plant is a standard sized plant with weak trailing growth form. The plant is currently being grown in a saucer that is 17 inches in diameter. The plant has developed several trails and has totally filled the saucer. The petioles of the leaves are extremely long, some reaching 6-8 inches in length. The net effect is that the plant has taken on a hemispheric shape, while growing in a saucer only 1 inch deep. The lightly ruffled blue flowers are relatively large (1 1/2 inches) and are held above the foliage. Unfortunately, the flowers are single droppers, but they are produced in good abundance.

The most positive aspect of this plant is its ability to grow in so shallow a container. 'Sigi Falls' is reported to grow on rocks on the edge of the Sigi River. The ability of 'Sigi Falls' to grow on very shallow soil has apparently

been inherited by the offspring. The ability to grow in a shallow saucer allows this plant to fit under the lights of a plant stand, a problem in growing most standard sized trailers. If this growth characteristic could be maintained while improving the flowers, a new type of standard trailers could potentially be developed.

I also crossed the two 'Sigi Falls' hybrids together in an attempt to get double flowers on the trailing growth form. A mixture of offspring were produced. One of the offspring surprisingly turned out to have fantasy flowers, a trait it must have inherited from 'Fickle Flirt', but was not expressed in the first generation parent. This plant could be grown as a single crown plant (by removing the suckers), but is also showing a tendency for a weak trailing habit. A sibling plant has large double dark blue flowers on a similar trailing habit. Both of these plants have potential as standard trailers and are being further evaluated. Other offspring from this cross have a rosette growth form, but large dark blue flowers. Several have the heavy thick foliage of 'Sigi Falls' and might provide interesting traits for further hybridization work for standard sized rosette style plants.

Dave Rose also provided seed from a cross of *S. velutina* X *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*. This cross promised to be interesting because it might produce a trailer with the rich dark hairy foliage of *S. velutina*. Almost all of the offspring were indeed trailers with *S. velutina* foliage. These results were interesting genetically, because they showed the trailing habit to be expressed in the first generation (F1), a very different result than the crosses with the previous trailing species. Most of the plants were semi-miniature in size, similar to the *S. magungensis* parent. The leaves of these plants were shaped like the *S. magungensis* parent, but had the hairy texture of the *S. velutina* parent. The underside of the leaves were especially interesting in that the veins were light green while the areas between the veins were dark red. This combination produced a very appealing striped color to the leaves, especially when viewed from beneath the plant. The flowers, however, were small blue single droppers which was not unexpected given the nature of the flowers of both species. The foliage, trailing habit, and plant size of the F1 plants were all desirable, but the flowers definitely needed improvement.

Some of the F1 plants were allowed to self-pollinate. The next generation or F2 offspring showed a mixture of traits between the parents, producing both trailers and non-trailers with various types and sizes of leaves. None of these offspring were particularly interesting, but a few have been saved for further study.

A cross was made between one of the best F1 offspring and 'Happy Trails', a semi-miniature trailer with double red flowers. The goal of this cross was to maintain

the trailing habit and plant size, the *S. velutina* type of foliage, and introduce double flowers. The offspring from this cross were all semi-miniature trailers. About half had foliage similar to *S. velutina*, although the number of leaf hairs had been reduced. The first several offspring to bloom, however, all had single blue dropper flowers. Eventually one offspring finally bloomed with full double dark blue flowers. While the leaves have some characteristics of *S. velutina*, they are not as "interesting" as the F1 parent. Perhaps a backcross to the F1 parent will reinforce the *S. velutina* foliage while maintaining the trailing habit and double blooms. Crosses are being attempted with this plant to several miniature trailers in order to introduce other flower colors while reducing the plant size even further. Eventually, a series of miniature trailers with the *S. velutina* style foliage in a variety of flower colors may be developed.

Another series of crosses have been done using a new trailer species (possible a new clone of *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*) from the Mather Collection. This trailer, known as No. 21 from the Usambaras Mountains, has a good trailing habit, semi-miniature size, and dark foliage. Crosses were made to this plant with 'Cherry Cola' and 'Ness' Angel Glitter'. The seedlings have not yet flowered, but many are semi-miniature trailers with dark foliage. It is very interesting that trailers were produced in the first or F1 generation of both these crosses. This suggests that No. 21 will make a good parent to cross with non-trailers in order to introduce the trailing habit to the offspring in just one generation. Perhaps some of the F1 offspring will have good flower characteristics, but even if they don't, they may serve as good genetic stock for further work.

The results of the crosses discussed here show a number of potentials for the development of future trailing African violets. First, the use of other trailing species appears to allow the development of the trailing growth form in the first generation, rather than second or third generations as was done in the past. This will save time in combining the trailing habit with desirable flower characteristics such as raspberry edges or coral red flower color. Second, other foliage types, such as that of *S. velutina* might be added to trailers, increasing the variation and variety found in these plants. Third, the ability of some species to grow on shallow soils may be exploited to grow standard sized trailers in shallow containers. This may permit more growers to enjoy these plants, increasing their popularity. There are a number of other trailing species and clones that have yet to be worked with. For example, I have four clones of *S. grottei*, two of which are very compact in growth form. There are several clones of *S. pendula* var. *pendula* available, one of which is a very compact grower while two others are

good creeping style trailers. *S. pendula* var. *kizarae* is another species that shows some promise. Another new plant from the Mather collection is a large trailer with glossy light green foliage, which could be interesting to work with.

In conclusion, it would appear that a large number of new variations in trailers could be developed using these

other species and clones. For those who might think that nothing new can be developed in African violets, I would challenge them to reconsider and try their own hybridization experiments using these other plants. Whatever we have already developed in the rosette style plants should be possible in the trailers, and the use of these other plants may help us get there more quickly.



It Was Nice While It Lasted

by David Buttram
Independence, MO

In late 1968 two unnamed, nondescript African violets, one a small double pink and the other a double blue, started me on a long road leading to wonderful experiences and many friends.

By February of 1969 I had attended my first African violet show, where I was introduced to AVSA and immediately joined, so I could learn more about this fascinating plant. That same year, my interest in hybridizing was piqued by Reverend Charles Blades, later known as The Parson, and by the fall of that year, I was beginning to see ripening seed pods on my plants. The seeds were put down and for several attempts all the seedlings died.

Gradually I refined my techniques until the basement was overflowing with new plants of all shapes, colors and sizes. Admittedly, in the beginning, I had an overabundance of single blues and pinks.

During that time all my plants were at my parent's home as the basement in my home was not yet suited for them. I was not in a big hurry to finish my basement as the African violets seemed to thrive in the cool and humid conditions of my parent's house.

One night I was caring for the plants when I noticed an outstanding pink double bloom. It had a creamy smoothness to it and many buds on the first stalk. I was so excited that I broke off the stalk and ran upstairs to share the new found beauty with my family.

"Look here, Mom and Dad. This is one of my new ones. Just look at it," I almost shouted with pride and victory in my voice.

Mother spoke first, "Oh, that's so beautiful, son! Let me see it up close." I handed my pride and joy to her and stepped back.

As a flower lover, Mother instinctively raised the open bloom to her nose and inhaled. "And it smells so good," she said with a sigh.

"No, Mom, African violets don't have a fragrance," I informed her.

"Well, this one does," said Mother in a tone of voice mothers use when they are right and you are wrong.

Quickly, in fact, almost instantly, I began to see visions in my mind. With a backdrop of dollar signs, I saw myself walking forward to accept the Bronze Medallion at an AVSA Awards Banquet followed by a standing ovation. Then came the Nobel prize in Botany (do they give such an award?).

Seconds later, I was back to reality and asked Mother for the bloom. I inhaled a long, deep breath. Nothing. No fragrance. No hint of a smell as the dollar signs, bronze medallion, and Nobel prize quickly disappeared from my imagination.

"See, Mother, I told you African violets don't have a fragrance. Let me smell your hands."

Sheepishly, Mother sniffed her hands and weakly smiled. "Sorry, son, that was my hand lotion I smelled."

Just as quickly as I had gained all the money and awards, I lost them. I returned to the basement to finish watering the plants and appreciating the beauty God has given us.

The fame and fortune? It was nice while it lasted!

Remembering Alma M. Wright

January, 1998, marked the passing of one of AVSA's founding members, Alma M. Wright, of Knoxville, TN.

On November 8, 1946, following the first day of an enormously successful African violet show in Atlanta, GA, a group of ten enthusiastic growers met in the storage room of the H.G. Hastings Company, amid a stock of seed and fertilizer. A temporary organization was set up to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent society, which they did the following evening, with Alma Wright accepting the post of Secretary, a position she held until 1948.

As membership grew and bylaws were adopted, a decision was made to publish a magazine. Alma Wright was asked to accept the position of Editor of the African Violet Magazine, which she did. The first issue appeared in 1947, and only 500 copies of the 7" X 10", twelve page, black and white magazine were printed, all addressed to members by hand.

Alma Wright remained as Editor of the African Violet Magazine for 16 years, until 1963, guiding it through many changes including expansion, to accommodate the ever-growing membership of AVSA, and the extensive inclusion of color. She also served as the President of AVSA from 1949 - 1950, and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1950. Alma also served AVSA as Executive Director, 1960 - 1963, and as Editor of the first Master Variety List.

Alma made several contributions to flower and



Alma M. Wright

horticulture books and magazines. She served Saintpaulia International and the American Gesneriad Society, as Editor and Publisher, was a member of Garden Writers of America and served the American Horticultural Society as Vice President. Alma M. Wright can be found in many prestigious listings including Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Foremost Women in Communications, 2000 Women of Achievement, and the Dictionary of International Biographies.

In 1997 Alma made a generous contribution to the current AVM editor's office, which allowed for the purchase of a scanner. She also offered to be of assistance in any way, and was working on an article for the AVM at the time of her death.

Alma's legacy to the African Violet Society of America can be found in the many informative, beautifully produced issues of the African Violet Magazine, and her enthusiasm in the formation of this society which has brought thousands of African violet admirers together.

In Memory

NORMA MYLO LETO

Norma Myla Leto, charter member, died in January, 1998. A native of Guanaja, Honduras, she moved to Tampa in 1945. Norma was an active member of Tampa African Violet Society and the African Violet Council of Florida, and AVSA. Norma was president of Tampa AVS in 1983 -1984, had also served as vice president, chaired several committees and was librarian for many years.

PHILIP LYNDE HARDEN

Philip Lynde Harden died in January, 1998. Philip was a long-time member of Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, and was a life member of Dixie AVS and AVSA. Philip enjoyed helping "behind the scenes" at the Tampa AVS and AVCF annual shows, and for many years photographed and videotaped the shows.

FRED MOAK

Fred Moak died in February, 1998, following a brief illness. Fred was a member of Tampa African Violet Society, the African Violet Council of Florida, Dixie AVS, Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, Gesneriad Society International, AGGS, and AVSA. Fred served as Vice President of Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, and was Secretary of Tampa AVS. He especially enjoyed growing the "other" gesneriads and sharing them with friends. His passion was the African violet species.



1998 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

As you make your plans to travel this year, be sure to include a visit to one or more of the African violet growers listed below.

This list is compiled from the responses received from

AVSA Commercial Members earlier this year. If appointments are requested, please comply by writing or phoning ahead.

With a road map and this list, you can have a rewarding trip this summer and fall. Please drive carefully.

- 1) Hemond's Greenhouse
Priscilla Hemond
21 North Verrill Road
Minot, ME 04258
(207) 345-3003
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
7 days a week
By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 2) Allegro Plant Tonic
235 Alps Rd.
Branford, CT 06405
(203) 488-8008
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale Supplies
- 3) Smith's Country Cottage African Violets
Mr. G.T. Smith
109 Ogden Parma Town Line Rd.
Spencerport, NY 14559
(716) 352-6445
Hours: 10AM to 6PM Mon.-Sat.
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Plants, supplies.
- 4) Champion's African Violets
8848 Van Hoesen Rd.
Clay, NY 13041
(315) 699-7317
Hours: By appointment
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 5) Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.
Paul and Sidney Sorano
14 Mutchler St.
Dolgeville, NY 13329
(315) 429-8291
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Fri.
10AM to 4PM Sat.
12PM to 4PM Sun
summer months.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 6) Rainbow Violets
1609 Michigan Ave.
Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2907
(716) 282-8936
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Retail - leaves.
- 7) Violet Venture
Fay Wagman
52 Harper Dr.
Pittsford, NY 14534
(716) 381-6384
Hours: Anytime, by appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 8) Rob's Mini-O-Lets (The Violet Barn)
Ralph Robinson
7209 County Rd.12 (P.O. Box 9)
Naples, NY 14512
(716) 374-8592
Hours: 12PM to 5PM every day.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Plants, supplies.
- 9) Violet Rainbow II
Melody Hartman
715 Kames Hill Rd.
Columbia, PA 17512
(717) 684-2169
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 10) Tinari Greenhouses
Frank and Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Road, Box 190
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144
FAX (215) 947-2163
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Color Catalog...\$1.00
- 11) Violets and More
3217 State Line Rd.
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 762-3576
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 12) The Behnke Nurseries Co.
11300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S. #1)
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 937-1100
Hours: 8AM to varied closing time.
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
- 13) Violets by Nan Jefferson
1221 Mardele Lane
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
(336) 767-0785
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 14) Carousel of Violets
1403-C S. Stratford Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
(336) 760-2898
Hours: 1PM to 5:30PM Mon.
10AM to 5:30PM Tues.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Leaves - if ordered in advance.
- 15) Bluebird Greenhouses
Elizabeth Glembocki
4821 Jessie Dr.
Apex, NC 27502
(919) 362-0530
Hours: 9AM to 12PM or by appointment.
- 16) Windy Farm
HC 2 Box 515
Madison, VA 22727
(540) 923-4227
Hours: 9AM to 4PM Mon.-Fri.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 17) Country Road Violets 'n Things
Ed Holst
P.O. Box 4871
Macon, GA 31208-4871
(912) 743-4720
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 18) Travis' Violets
Travis Davis
2064 Ellen St., P.O. Box 42
Ochlocknee, GA 31773
(912) 574-5167
Hours: 8AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.

- 19) African Violets by Florals of Fredericks
155 Spartan Dr.
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 339-5553
Hours: 9AM to 6PM Mon.-Sat.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 20) Violets From The Starrs
George and Estelle Star
2602 Graupera St.
Pensacola, FL 32507-1637
(850) 456-2662
E-mail: gbstarr@juno.com
Hours: Anytime, call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
Major sales: African violet lamp.
- 21) Arlene's Violets & Cacti
6516 N.W. 65th St.
(mail) 213 Turkey Creek
Alachua, FL 32615
(904) 462-5607
Hours: Call for appointment, leave message.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 22) The Violet House
Bill and BeBe Edwards
1313 S. Main St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 377-8465
(800) 377-8466
Hours: 8AM to 3:30PM Mon.-Fri.
(Call to make sure BeBe's in)
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 23) H & H Enterprises
Mary V. (Jennie) Herrington
34 Oleta Dr.
Ellisville, MS 39437
(601) 763-9892
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
Ceramic self-watering pots.
- 24) Bayou Violets
Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Dr.
Metairie, LA 70005-1152
(504) 837-4037
Hours: Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves only.
- 25) The Blooming Violet Pot
Division of B & E Ceramics
11256 Cornell Pk. Dr. Suite 506
Cincinnati, OH 45242
(513) 489-3308
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Supplies - self-watering pots,
hand-painted, 3 sizes.
- 26) African Violets by Don Geiss
4957 W. Poverty Perch
Frederic, MI 49735
(517) 348-5657
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 27) Belisle's Violet House
4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687
E-mail: belislesvh@aol.com
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: leaves, plants.
- 28) Midland Violets
Don and Jean Ness
3667 Midland Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(612) 429-4109
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 29) The Violet Showroom
310 N. Walnut
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 382-2554
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, some supplies.
- 30) Pat's Pets
Gary Dunlap
4189 Jarvis Rd.
Hillsboro, MO 63050
(314) 789-3604
Hours: 8AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
1PM to 5PM Sun.
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 31) F Industries
HCR-65 Box 309-1
Pryor, OK 74561-9644
(918) 434-6768
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Wholesale - leaf supports only.
- 32) The Violet Showcase
Douglas and Barbara Crispin
5147 So. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
(303) 761-1770
Hours: 10AM to 5PM
(Closed Tuesdays and Sundays).
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 33) Violets of the West
6661 Upham Dr.
Arvada, CO 80003-3943
(303) 421-3195
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 34) Big Thicket Violets
Rt. 1 Box 312
Silsbee, TX 77656
(409) 385-3423
E-mail: btv97@aol.com
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 35) JoS Violets
Joanne Schrimsher
2205 College Dr.
Victoria, TX 77901
(512) 575-1344
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 36) African Violet Shop
J.C. and Lenora Munk
2015 Bauer Dr.
Houston, TX 77080-5524
(713) 468-0844
Hours: 9AM to 4:30PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 37) Hill Country African Violets & Nursery
Ken Froboese
32005 I.H. 10 West
Boerne, TX 78006
(830) 249-2614
FAX (830) 249-8658
Hours: 8AM to 6PM
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
No lists or shipping.
- 38) The Mini Mansion
212 Briarcliff Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78213
(210) 542-5442
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 39) Shirley's House of Violets
Sandy and Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78221
(210) 923-1093
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.

- 40) Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.
2714 Minert St.
Dallas, TX 75219
(214) 526-3484
Hours: 8AM to 4:30PM Mon.-Fri.
8AM to 12PM Sat.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 41) Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.
3714 Old Settlers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
(972) 539-7714
Hours: 9AM to 5PM Mon.-Sat.
1PM to 5PM Sun.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Plants, supplies.
- 42) Hortense's African Violets
Hortense Pittman
7416 County Rd. #129
Celina, TX 75009
(972) 382-2571
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
- 43) Teas Nursery Co., Inc.
4400 Bellaire Blvd.
Bellaire, TX 77401 (inside Houston)
(800) 446-7723
Website: www.teasnursery.com
Hours: 9AM to 6PM
7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - plants, supplies.
- 44) Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique
Billy and Carolyn Rozell
12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738
(903) 595-5137
FAX: (903) 593-7956
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 45) Kachina African Violets and Supplies
15818 N. 52nd St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(602) 992-1251
E-mail: KachinaAV@juno.com
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - supplies.
- 46) Hattie Baggett's African Violets
HCR2 Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714
(520) 822-5060
Hours: Weekdays, call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
Wholesale - club sales.
- 47) Lainey Ceramics
28506 Borgona
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
(714) 581-1464
Hours: 9AM to 9PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale - supplies.
- 48) Melvin J. Robey
53400 Eisenhower Dr.
La Quinta, CA 92253
(760) 771-3343
Hours: By appointment. Also mail order.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale. Supplies - AV
Books, buttons, pins, magnets.
- 49) AV Enterprises
P.O. Box 6778
Oxnard, CA 93030
(714) 972-3080
Hours: Mail order only.
Remarks: Book - "Growing to Show"
- 50) Phlogistics
Florence Naylor
478 Arcade Dr. (P.O. Box 1411)
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 653-5546
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - supplies.
Water Distillers, pH papers,
Nifty Scoops, growing aids.
- 51) Dyna-Gro Nutrition Solutions
1065 Broadway Ave.
San Pablo, CA 94806
(800) Dyna-Gro
FAX (510) 233-0198
E-mail: dynagro@aol.com
Hours: 9AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale- supplies.
- 52) Mighty Minis
7318 Sahara Ct.
Sacramento, CA 95828-3905
(916) 421-7284
Hours: 9AM to 4PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants.
- 53) Mudhole Productions
870 Research Dr. #5
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(888) 549-8149
Hours: 7 AM to 5PM
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale Pottery
- 54) Kerry's Violets
Karyle A. Pasley
1140 7th Ave.
Gold Hill, OR 97525
(541) 855-7065
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, no mail orders.
- 55) Henry's Plant Farm
4522 132nd St. SE
Snohomish, WA 98290
(425) 337-8120
Hours: 8AM to 4:30PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Wholesale - plants.
- 56) Crescent Bay Gardens, Inc.
51393 Hwy. 112
Port Angeles, WA 98363
Hours: Mail orders only.
Remarks: Retail - leaves.
- 57) Alannah's African Violets
Alannah Regan
Box 2
Danville, WA 99121
(250) 442-2552
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
Also gesneriads, geraniums.
- 58) Beverly's Violets
4178 Apollo Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907) 338-4510
Hours: By appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale
Leaves, plants, supplies.
- 59) Violet Boutique
John Deering
40 Pellan Crescent
Kanata, Ont., Canada K2K 1J5
(613) 592-3140
Hours: 9AM to 9PM
Call for appointment.
Remarks: Retail, Wholesale.
Leaves, plants, supplies, ceramic
self-watering pots.
- 60) Aca's Violet-Tree
John and Doris Brownlie
600 Silvercreek Blvd. #80
Mississauga, Ont., Canada L5A 2B4
(905) 270-6776
Hours: Anytime by appointment.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.
- 61) Bloomin' Basement
224 Douglas Woods Point SE
Calgary, AB, Canada T2Z 2A7
(403) 279-5826
Hours: By appointment, 7 days a week.
Remarks: Retail - leaves, plants, supplies.

DIVIDING AND CHOOSING BABY PLANTS

Celine Chase • Redwood City, CA

This is based on my experience in dividing and choosing a baby plant that will produce everything we want in a good plant, for home or show.

If you started with a good leaf, babies should be ready to separate in 4-7 months. Let plantlets be 2-3 inches. I like a leaf that produces 1-3 babies; they're stronger, shorter petioled, and more compact.

Very carefully separate the babies from the mother leaf. A sharp knife can be a good tool for this operation. If you used vermiculite, the babies are easier to separate and have more roots attached. Some babies may be a little too small to be alone in soil, so make a community planter using starter mix for these plants and leave until big enough to replant. Now compare your babies with the ones below.



- #1 This is the type you should save and care for. Note the center leaves, the compactness, and the good roots.
- #2 This has no center and will never have a crown that will produce bloom. Discard it, saving space for good plants.
- #3 A baby with a neck like this when it is little, will always be wobbly. This might be caused by the mix being too shallow for the leaves you set down so when the roots get bigger they pushed the babies up, thus forming a smooth neck that won't produce roots; at least not for me.

It pays to be choosy from the start. Why waste your time, money, and space on inferior plants?

*Reprinted with permission from
The CA Council News, joint publication of the
Northern & Southern CA AV Councils*

by Pauline Bartholomew • from "Growing to Show"

For African violets, clay pots have gone the way of the dinosaur. They were used in the early days of growing violets because they were porous and roots could breathe. When plastic pots appeared on the market, growers soon started using them because of their many advantages. They are lightweight, inexpensive, and easily sterilized. Clay pots are just the opposite, plus they have the added problems of algae and salts build-up and rapid water loss. However, growers had to rethink growing procedures in order to keep the fussy roots of African violets happy in a non-porous container.

This opened up a whole new field. Manufacturers worked to improve pot designs and growers developed lighter soil mixes and methods that would enable African violets to be grown successfully in plastic pots. As a result, giant strides have been made. We now have the benefit of unique new pot designs and the Texas-Style growing method.

You will need to know the terminology of utility pot sizes when growing African violets. If only one measurement is given, it refers to the

diameter of the pot. If an additional measurement is given, it refers to the depth of the pot. However, the depth of a pot is not usually specified. Short utility pots suitable for African violets are referred to as "tub," "squatty," "azalea," or "bulb pan". Tall utility pots are referred to as "standard."

Manufacturers' standards for pot sizes are generally as follows, but different brands may vary somewhat. Square pots are measured diagonally.

STANDARD: the depth is equal to the diameter

TUB or AZALEA: the depth is equal to three-fourths of the diameter.

BULB PAN: the depth is equal to one-half of the diameter.

Because African violets have shallow, fibrous roots, it is almost sure death to pot them in a standard pot. Since the inch or so of space at the bottom of the pot is unused by the roots, the soil stays wet and soggy. Thus, much of the aeration to the roots is cut off. You probably have heard of plants who don't like "wet feet" - well, African violets head the list.



NOTES ON TRAILING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Presented at Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention,
November 9, 1996
by Dr. Ralph Robinson, Rob's Mini-o-Lets

Select a Good Variety:

Look for varieties that:

- Branch freely with minimal pinching
- Produce "runners" with horizontal (not vertical) growth
- Produce dense, not sparse, foliage growth, i.e. produce "lots of leaves"
- Avoid semi trailing, "bush" - type varieties

What you want is a variety that will freely produce numerous runners, that will grow along the surface of the soil (rooting as it goes), and has densely produced foliage (no spaces visible). These varieties will have the best "form", and will grow best as a ground cover, since they will fill more horizontal space, more densely. Since each runner will produce bloom, more runners means greater quantity of bloom. Varieties that spread runners easily will also produce better distribution of bloom.

Getting Started:

Put down a leaf, or:

- Root a tip cutting in moist soil, keep covered for 3-4 weeks until rooted
- Upon uncovering, remove center - this may be the only time pinching is necessary

Potting Into Larger Containers:

You'll sometimes have to make your own. Always use shallow containers, never more than 3" deep, no matter what the diameter.

When?

Repot when trailer looks "overgrown" in its current pot. At this point the runners will be about to crawl over the pot rim. With trailers, however, procrastination can be a virtue. A plant that has been allowed to become very overgrown and "weedy" will fill-in a larger pot all the more quickly, since you'll have more long runners to work with.

Into What?

A shallow container. From a 2" pot (for the starter plant), pot into a 3" tub, then into a 5" pan pot. Beyond this, shallow pots (depth less than 3") can be hard to come by. I use 8" and 10" saucers, and drill holes into the bottom for drainage. Another solution is to cut a large standard pot down to 2-3" in depth (I use a hacksaw, and file away the rough edges).

Other Hints

Use a very light, porous soil. It will take time for the runners to root and fill a large pot. A heavy, wet soil makes it more likely that roots (and runners) will rot before the additional soil is filled with roots. Tightly packing soil into the pot will give you a firm surface for the runners to crawl along. If the plant is too loosely potted, the soil level will sink over time, losing contact with runners. You might also want to press (or pin) runners into the soil to promote rooting, which is more easily done into firm soil.

Grooming:

How to promote dense growth and good form.

Thinning out foliage

For dense foliage, the small, immature runners (the tiny suckers appearing along the existing runners) need a chance to develop. You want long runners growing from other long runners! For this to happen, you need to "thin out" foliage making the growth less dense now, so that it will be more dense later. This allows more light to reach the small, developing runners so that they can begin to mature. Thinning will give you dense undergrowth so that the plant won't show those ugly bare stems as it becomes older. Always remove immature, oversized, off-color, or damaged leaves. Don't be squeamish - unlike other violets, trailers will quickly fill-in any "gaps" in symmetry (form) that have momentarily been created.

Shaping the plant

A trailer with good form has a smooth, rounded appearance. If looked at in profile, it should have a smooth edge, without a jagged, spiked look, much like a just-trimmed hedge. To achieve this look, remove vertical growth and leaves competing for the same space. These are leaves that, because there isn't room enough for the both of them, are pressed against each other, not allowing either one to lay flat. Since one leaf will occupy this space as well as two, removing the second allows the first to grow in a more natural, flat position. Remember that you want trailers to occupy horizontal space.

Placement of runners

Good form also means that the plant is round (circular)

in shape when viewed from above. Ideally, you would like runners to be of an even length and evenly distributed around the pot. This will give you even distribution of foliage and bloom. If not, runners can be moved so that this is the case. This is most easily done when potting into a larger container. Simply move the runners equidistant around the pot, and fill as much space as possible. Press runners into the (firm) soil surface. If they're stubborn and don't want to stay where you've placed them, "pin" them down using U-shaped wire (like the end of a paper clip). For the pin to hold, the soil must be firm (you may want to "barb" the ends of the pin).

Filling in bare spots

Occasionally, a "bare spot" will appear where foliage is lacking. To fill in these areas, new growth needs to be encouraged there. If possible, move an existing runner (pinning if needed) to the bare area. You may also want to pinch (remove the tips of) existing runners surrounding the bare area to promote additional runners to grow into the area.

Growing for sho.

No special care, but a few helpful pointers.

What judges look for

Form (symmetry) - 25 points, has been discussed extensively already. Condition (cultural perfection) - 25 pts. Basically, this is the result of good cultural habits-i.e. "tender loving care". This means removing discolored or damaged leaves and spent blooms. A clean plant and container is also part of good cultural habits. This also means no bare stems (necks), "nubs" (from incompletely removed leaves and blossom stems), etc. Thick, dense foliage covers up a multitude of problems. What the judges can't see, can't be deducted. Quantity of bloom - 25 pts. Because good trailers will produce many runners (crowns), they have the potential for a tremendous quantity of bloom. Very simply, a plant with 30 crowns has the potential for 30 times the number of blooms of a single - crowned plant. Bloom should also be evenly distributed about the plants among the crowns. Size and type, and color of blossom, 15 and 10 pts., respectively. These should be consistent with the variety description. Since a trailer in full bloom should have more than enough bloom, always remove any blossoms that are questionable in terms of color, size, or freshness. Again, judges can deduct for these flaws only if they are allowed to see them.

Selection of plants for show

Choose a good variety and start with the healthiest plants exhibiting the best habits. Set aside those plants that most freely produce runners (you'll need a minimum of

three crowns to exhibit a trailer), evenly around the pot.

Repotting

Repot trailers 4-5 months prior to the date of the show. If the plant isn't ready for a larger container, repot into the same size container in fresh soil. Repot whether it needs it or not. By doing it now you won't have to do so just prior to the show. It's better to risk damaging the plant 4 months before the show than a month prior, when mistakes are harder to correct. Be sure that the container is just large enough to be completely filled with foliage by the show date.

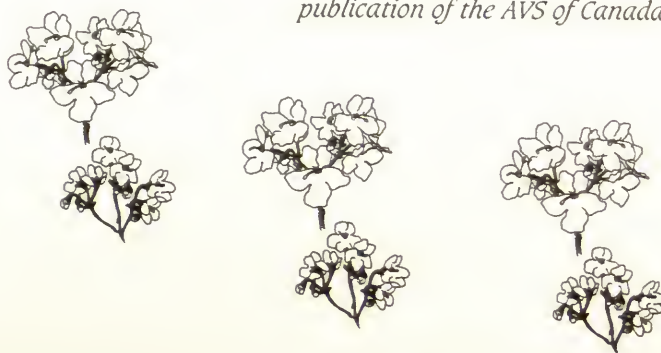
Severe pruning

Upon repotting, severely prune foliage from the plant, leaving only the very tips. Remove all remaining foliage. What should be left are bare runners on (or pinned into) the soil surface, with only a few leaves on each runner's end(s). The plant should look ugly at this point. This doesn't matter since it's not being judged now. By doing this, all new foliage will be allowed to grow, so that at show time, none of the leaves will be more than a few months old! Growth will also be denser and more uniform after having been pruned in this manner (it will grow back more quickly than you think). Remember - ugly now means beautiful later!

Disbudding

Most good trailing varieties will bloom heavily with little or no encouragement, so that disbudding isn't necessary to induce heavy bloom. But, disbudding will allow foliage to develop more quickly and completely. Again, ugly now and beautiful later. Disbudding also allows you to time the emergence of buds and bloom so that, on the show date, the plant has the maximum number of fresh blossoms. Begin disbudding immediately upon repotting and pruning, and continue to disbud until 6-10 weeks before the show date. Allow more time under cooler, less time under warmer, conditions. The precise timing will depend a bit upon the variety, but most trailers are such prolific bloomers by nature, precision here is less important than with other violets.

*Reprinted with permission from "Chatter",
publication of the AVS of Canada*



Soil & Potting Mixtures

by Mary Walbrick • Wichita Falls, Texas

Growing African violets successfully depends in great measure on how well you provide a good environment for them. One of the most important elements is the potting mix. When selecting a potting mix, consider the cultural conditions that may affect your mixture, such as sunlight or fluorescent light, wick watering, top-watering automatic watering containers. Humidity, as well as growing space plays a part in success, also.

You can learn about many of these growing elements from the experiences of others and by reading articles in various books and magazines devoted to African violets. It may take some time and experimentation before you "discover" the right ingredients for the best mix for use in your environment. The following requirements are a must and cannot be overlooked when choosing a mix for your African violets.

THERE ARE FIVE MIX REQUIREMENTS

These five properties must be provided in every good potting mix.

- 1) It must be free of soil insects and diseases harmful to houseplants.
- 2) It must be slightly acid with a pH of 6.4 - 6.9.
- 3) It must have good drainage and not become easily waterlogged.
- 4) It must not pack, but remain loose and porous so air and water can reach the roots.
- 5) It must contain organic matter for holding moisture and fertilizer nutrients.

MIX INGREDIENTS

Consider these materials for a potting mix and the benefits that each ingredient provides.

SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS is probably the best source of good organic matter, is coarse, resists decomposition and holds moisture well. Other types of peat are less satisfactory because they are too fine, tend to compact and get soggy rather quickly. Sphagnum peat moss in the mixture serves as a reservoir for both water and nutrients and contributes acidity to the mix as it decomposes.

VERMICULITE and PERLITE are relatively inert, coarse, bulky materials that resist compacting and keep the mix loose and well aerated.

Vermiculite provides water and nutrient holding capacity and has a high buffering capacity that slows the changes in the pH. It also permits higher fertilization rates, and of itself provides some potassium, calcium and

magnesium. Its scaly structure is easily broken in handling. This can cause compacting and water logging.

Perlite does not break up easily and has little capacity to hold nutrients or to buffer pH and has no nutrient value. Perlite is better for aeration of the mix. Both vermiculite and perlite are manufactured by heat processes, which sterilize them.

HUMUS and GARDEN SOIL provide plant nutrients but must be pasteurized to kill insects, pests and diseases harmful to plants. Material is generally composed of sand, silt, clay and organic matter. The organic matter results from decomposition of vegetable and animal matter that is vitally important because it is the home of millions of beneficial bacteria necessary to plant life.

Addition of humus or garden soil is normally limited to mature African violets. The majority of growers use very little and depend upon soilless mix and fertilizer to produce show quality plants.

CHARCOAL has the capacity of absorbing and holding nitrogen until the plant can use it. One grain can absorb 80 times its own bulk of organic nitrogen given off in the soil by the breakdown of various plant foods. This gas is volatile and easily lost from the soil. Charcoal also destroys injurious acids, absorbs other undesirables and keeps the soil sweet while keeping the pH level of the soil from becoming dangerous. The value of charcoal cannot be overemphasized.

DOLOMITE LIMESTONE is a rock flour containing phosphorus and calcium with numerous trace elements. It reduces acidity in a mix. When limestone contains 30% or more magnesium it is called dolomite. Never use other types of limestone. They are extremely hot and will burn plant roots.

African violets are light feeders - do not overdo by adding fertilizers to your mix. Too much will injure or kill your plants. Soilless type potting mix proportions are commonly 1-1-1: one part sphagnum moss, one part vermiculite, and one part perlite.

You will quickly learn that there are as many formulas for potting mixes, as there are growers. Some are great, some are good, and some are not so good. Experimentation will be necessary to determine which potting mix is best for your growing conditions.

*Reprinted with permission from
the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas*



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Beryl Gardner from Australia advises, *"While I consider it to be very important to read as much as it is possible to lay one's hands on, we must always remember that the conditions under which one is growing are unique to oneself. Just because someone else grows under lights, for example, doesn't mean that it is not possible to grow elsewhere. This is particularly so in a climate like ours where so much can be grown outdoors. Last year I put a Columnea out where it was in full sunlight, during winter. Its leaves bleached only a little. Then it was in partial shade, but very bright light for the summer. I have never had a pot so thick with growth, or so full of flower for so long. It was, I think, C. 'Comanche.' I have grown large sinningias in the ground in the sun for many years."*

"We are plagued with ants in the garden at present, despite powder and spray. I've never known them to be so bad. The relation of the presence of ants to the need to be alert for mealy bugs is one item I had to learn the hard way."

I wholeheartedly agree with Beryl's observations. I grew *Aeschynanthus* in an apricot tree in California. In the winter it got full sun since the apricot's leaves dropped. In summer it was protected by leaves and hit by apricots which may have given it a boost of nutrients because the plant was loaded with blossoms! Beryl's comments about ants also hit home. Many of us have ant problems indoors when there's a lot of rain. We all know El Niño has caused tremendous rains this year in the U.S. In the rainy season in California, I'd find some of my indoor pots filled with ants. Then, about 3 months later I'd have a foliar and soil mealy problem. I had to put trays of water under the pots so the ants would stay out.

When asked, "What do you wish someone would have told you when you first started growing gesneriads?" **Jackie Jones** from Iowa responded, *"I would have liked more 'beginner' information. Which would be easiest to grow and which would need more humidity in order to do*

well would have been two questions. I'd have liked more information about the growth habits.

"If something does not fit my violet pattern of watering, fertilizing and temperature, they are not welcome. I have neither space or time to devote to them. Some chiritas seem content with us, and miniature sinningias tolerate our wick watering.

"Sinningia Cardinalis 'Salmon' grown from seed is outgrowing us and giving no indication of bloom so won't be given space much longer. Chirita subrhomboides is sulking somewhat by having damaged lower leaves and spotted areas, so something is not right".

Again, Jackie's right on target. If a plant doesn't grow well or bloom in your environment, there are plenty of other violets and gesneriads that will. Give uncooperative plants away.

By the time many of you get this magazine the AVSA California convention will have ended. Are your newly acquired convention plants in isolation? PLEASE isolate your plants by whatever means you can, even if you have to buy an angel food cake at the grocery store in order to have a large plastic container.

I clean cut plant leaves of *Chirita*, *Columnea* and *Streptocarpus* by spraying them with rubbing alcohol and rinsing them off within 90 seconds. Don't get alcohol on the leaf stem. I throw away the soil and pot the tops of other plants after washing them thoroughly in 1 tablespoon of powdered Ivory Snow mixed with one gallon of room temperature water. Try not to let sudsy water in the cut stem. In the same solution I wash tubers and rhizomes as best I can. Rinse everything thoroughly. Isolate for a minimum of 3 months. When you are brave enough to introduce the plants in your plant room, have them all on one shelf and watch them carefully. Sometimes mealy bugs don't show in high humidity environments as is produced when plants are isolated in plastic containers or bags, but once the plant is stressed by being out in the open, meales appear.

Grooming is more Important than you Think!

by Sue Hoffmann • Virginia Beach, VA

Showtime is quickly approaching. You've been watering, fertilizing, increasing your light time. Hopefully, your plants are beginning to reward you with buds. Blossoms are important, but quantity of bloom is only 25 percent of what the judges consider. Let's take a look at how they evaluate your plant.

Symmetry constitutes 25 percent of the points. Place your plant on the floor and look at it from the top to assess the shape and evenness - or "spokes of the wheel." Remember that African violets grow in sets of three leaves. Look for these sets when checking symmetry.

Size and type of blossom is worth 15 points and color of blossom makes up the remaining 10 percent.

You should always check the Master Variety List (MVL) to verify the plant is growing true to description — the correct type of bloom (single, semidouble, double), the correct color, and the correct size (if noted). Right away you know whether your plant qualifies for these 25 points. If your plant is described as an edged blossom and is growing solid, it can automatically lose up to 10 points. You have 15 points riding on a single blossom that is listed as a double in the MVL.

Grooming can make or break a plant, and there are several things you should know. AVSA sponsored shows are merit judged by point scoring. That means simply that each plant is judged individually. You start with 100 points and deduct points for specific shortcomings. If your final score is 90-100 you merit a blue ribbon, 80-89 merits a red ribbon, and 70-79 merits a white ribbon.

Now we've looked at where all the points are:

symmetry	25
condition (cultural perfection)	25
quantity of bloom	25
size and type of blossom	15
color of blossom	10

Let's look at specific examples of why points are deducted. This is where grooming plays a big role.

Start with symmetry. **Up to 3 points can be deducted**

for each instance of: gaps/spaces between leaves or rows of leaves, breaks in symmetry of leaf pattern, uneven foliage distribution, over/under potted (spread 3 times the pot width), long neck, or plant not being centered in the container.

Condition encompasses one quarter of the total points. Although not as many points are deducted for these flaws, they can add up quickly. Remember these are for *each occurrence*. **Deduct up to 1 point for:** marred, broken, dead, yellow, bleached leaves; petiole/peduncle stubs; suckers not completely removed; smaller leaves under outer row; dust, soil, traces of spray. **Deduct 1 full point for:** seed pods (enlarged pistils should not be confused with seed pods). Each of these flaws can be avoided through careful grooming! Include the first item on the list below. Don't leave spent blossoms on a plant, thinking they will make up for lack of blooms. It's better to have a fresh looking plant, than a "wilted" one.

Deduct 1/2 point per blossom for: each spent bloom; not enough blossoms for plant size; type of blossom not constant or true to variety (single, double, etc.); each solid color blossom instead of multicolor blossom.

Variegation is another area to watch. Any variegated variety with no variegation showing is automatically reduced to a red ribbon.

Examine the pointers above. They can be valuable as you look your show plants over and groom them. A marred or broken leaf will cost you up to one point. If you decide to remove it, remember to remove all three leaves in that set. A gap created by taking only one leaf can result in a three point penalty.

Also remember to remove the immature outer leaves. This is one of the most frequent misconceptions I've run across. Growers believe these "extra leaves" will add size (and beauty) to their plant, when in fact it detracts from the overall attractiveness.

Take a little extra time with grooming this year, and I guarantee you will be rewarded.

Stained Glass

Hybridized by:

E. Wasche

Large



Streptocarpus *'Rose Bud'*

Exhibited by:

Tony Hullerman

1997 AVS of Canada

National Show

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky





***Rebel's
Valiant***

*Hybridized by:
R. Bann*



***Quiet
Accord***

*Hybridized by:
B. Elkin
Semiminiature*

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Horticulture takes a break this issue as design takes center stage. Professional designers and people who really know what you're doing, bear with me. People with artistic talent, I am shamed! I know I'm treading dangerous ground here, but remember my goal today is not necessarily to provide a primer on design, but to encourage the use of small ones in design.

DESIGN TYPES

In most of our affiliate shows, there are three types of designs: interpretive plant arrangements, interpretive flower arrangements, and container gardens. Small ones can be used very nicely in the preparation of any of these designs.

Container gardens have plant material that is live and growing in the container. There are no dried or artificial plant materials allowed. **Jackie Jones**, designer extraordinaire and AVSA Master Judge from Iowa, teaches the importance of SCALE, SCALE and SCALE when working with container gardens because they are miniature landscapes intended to duplicate nature. For this reason, small ones are ideal in these arrangements.

Interpretive plant arrangements are designs where the entire violet plant is used but is removed from its growing container and arranged with other fresh cut or dried plant material. Here again, basic design principles would lead us to believe use of a standard African violet implies a bottom-heavy design. Use of the small ones however allows us to elevate the plant material, perhaps making the design less heavy and more airy.

Because only the flower blossoms are used in Interpretive flower arrangements, they are not as natural for small ones. African violets should be the focal point in designs. To create this effect a lot of blooms, or very large and vibrantly colored blooms are necessary, with the exception of one type of design: the small or miniature designs. It is here that small ones with their smaller blooms and shorter peduncles really shine!

BASIC RULES: RULE OF THREE, KEEP IT SIMPLE, AND AFRICAN VIOLETS AS FOCAL POINT

Creating designs can be made more simple provided you remember the rule of three. Always remember, designs look more whole, complete and balanced if there are an odd number of blossoms, divisions, or materials used, three being the simplest and easiest number to work with. To better explain this, I recommend you go to your local library and check out a few books on oriental design. In such designs, there are always three elements: the top most (representing the heavens), the middle (man) and earth (the lowest part). These designs are pure, simple creations of sheer beauty, and can be used as a model for any design. This drawing shows how these three elements can be placed:



The second rule is enunciated by elite Kansas City designer and violet club member, **Patty Hart**, whose designs rival the best I've seen in this country. She teaches the "keep it simple" rule: when you think your design needs something more, you probably need to take something out. All of which points to oriental designs: simplicity, purity and clarity of theme go a long way toward creating a blue ribbon design. Overindulgence creates confusion, distraction and overall, a poorly created design.

Finally, because we are promoting use of African violets, they should be the focal point of the design, and particularly for beginners, I would go further and recommend African violets be the dominant feature of a design. How is the focal point determined?

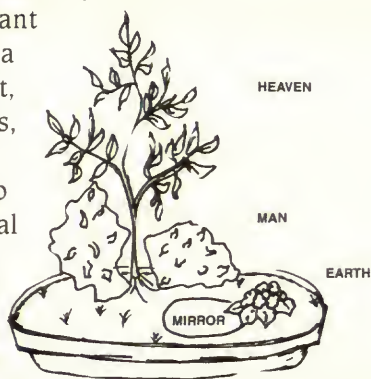
Again, I return to one of **Patty Hart's** tests: squint and whatever you see is the focal point. If it's not the violets either you don't have enough of them in your design, they're too scattered, or their color is lost within all else that's going on in the design. On the other hand, if you squint and the primary object you see is either an African violet or a grouping of African violet blooms, then you've succeeded brilliantly! How do violets become the focal points? Color is a wonderful method: use brightly colored blooms in a mass, chain or triangle of seemingly connected blooms. Contrast is another method, where the blooms are separated from foliage and backdrop by well-chosen use of color and/or textured materials.

SMALL ONES IN CONTAINER GARDENS FOR HOME AND SHOW

Container gardens are relatively simple to make if you remember the three rules. First, select some tall plants that are roughly 1 1/2 times the width of the container in which your design will be planted. Norfolk pines, palms, and Ficus create nice "trees" for your garden. This is the framework or "heaven" material. Next, you need some medium sized material, roughly 1/2 to 1/3 the size of the tallest plant. This is "man" or filler material. It should be more frill and spreading than the tall material. Some herbs, "china doll," ferns, etc. do quite nicely here. You'll need at least two of these. Again, to create additional interest use differently textured, hued or shaded plant material being careful not to get too colorful though, as you might alter the focal point of your garden. Also, try to set these plants at slightly differing heights to create rhythm and movement in your design which serves to draw your eye around and through the design, but always back into your focal point. Finally, select a nice miniature or semiminature African violet loaded with bloom. Bright pink or white blossoms do very nicely here. Be careful of using blues or darker colors as they may fade into the background especially when the lighting in the show room is not bright.

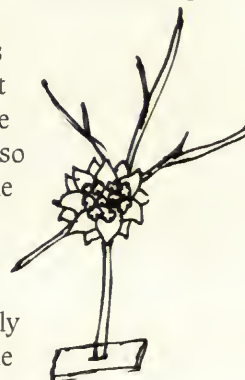
Finish your garden by

using very short plant material to create a grassy or mossy effect, possibly adding rocks, driftwood or shiny, watery like material to create a more natural setting. Using very small, relatively obscure accessories to help communicate the theme is perfectly acceptable as long as they don't interfere with your focal point.



SMALL ONES IN INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

Interpretive plant arrangements are those in which the African violet has been removed from the pot, root ball and all, and is used in the design, however only the violet is allowed to be "live and growing" and all other plant material must be cut or dried. One advantage of using the small ones is less damage is done to the plant during the arranging process because of the smaller root ball. This also makes the mechanics or "hiding the root ball" much easier to manage. The biggest advantage though, is small ones allow the designer additional creativity. They can easily be elevated in a design, changing the balance and overall effect. The base and line material simply don't need to be so heavy to compensate for the size of the plant although care must be taken to ensure the small violet remains the focal point and is not lost in the overall design.



SMALL ONES IN INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

These designs use only the cut African violet flower in addition to other cut plant material. In miniature (depending on your show schedule, generally anywhere from 12" or less) and in underwater designs the small flowers of some miniatures and semiminatures can work to the designer's advantage. A critical characteristic of these designs, once again, is scale. And the smaller the design you put together, the more important it is the blossoms are small, too. While some of the small ones have blooms that are large, many do not, and are therefore ideal for use in miniature design.

Likewise, they can be used in underwater designs where the magnification of design materials must be considered. To control the scale within these designs use of small ones can be helpful. An area where small ones do not do well is in the larger interpretive flower arrangements, where longer peduncles and larger flowers are often necessary to fill the space requirements of these designs. This is where violets, as much as we love them as house plants, become terrors to designers because of their generally weak and short peduncles and also because of the mass of blooms necessary to make larger designs "work." Most small ones are not useful in these designs.

NEXT TIME

The next column will be the annual convention review of cultivars both old and new that are of special note! Until then, take care!



S. brevipilosa, S. shumensis, S. velutina light

Exhibited by: Fay Wagman

1997 AVS of Canada National Show

AVS of Canada

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Failures In Raising African Violets

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI

"I have never had any luck in raising African violets." Those words are spoken frequently to us at fairs, workshops, or when a new acquaintance learns that we raise them.

Often, of course, that comment is only an excuse used when an individual does not really have any interest in the plant. We, however, treat every person's statement as fact probably based on a lack of knowledge on at least one aspect of raising them.

We do not bombard them with questions about how they treated the plants. Rather, we ask if the individual has just a few minutes to learn about our method. Due to the fact that we are in ignorance of their treatment, the person cannot draw a conclusion that we are correcting them. Instead we launch into a brief discussion about three aspects of our method.

The first is about the soilless potting material. The second is fertilizer and its amount per gallon of water for a wicked system. The third aspect is the light necessary to raise them. During this recitation it is often possible to see by the person's expression that she/he is discovering what has been wrong about their method of raising African violets.

Very often the individual begins to talk freely about the errors made in earlier attempts. If they have a plant that is not flowering, they ask about the steps necessary to convert to the self-watering system. They might suggest that they have no adequate window sill on which to place a plant. We tell them about the various devices that can hook to a window to provide plant space. Artificial lighting also is discussed as a possible way to solve that problem.

"Can I just put a wick in the pot of my plant and place it on a reservoir?" is often the question. We reply that it would be safer to wash off all of the soil and start with a known mix that has adequate vermiculite and perlite.

One of the more difficult questions to answer is "why

did the plant that I purchased from the store continue to flower for a while and then never flower again?" We note that a bud on the plant, much like a rose bud, continues to open when the plant is brought home. It might have been planted in a large pot just before the store received it from the original grower. The plant that was grown in a tightly confined container and then transferred to a separate larger pot will seldom flower again until it becomes root bound. Thus it will, depending on the size of the pot, be idle for some time. Of course, we then point out it may be the fault of any of the other factors already mentioned.

At times the person is afraid to tackle the job of repotting and at this stage we offer to repot it at a location distant from our own plants. It is explained that if the plant has some sort of insect infestation, it will endanger other plants if it is repotted near them.

Frequently if the person does not have plants, he/she will purchase one or more to try again. We give them the assurance of a business card in case they have further questions. It is impossible to describe in the space of a short article, the success stories that have been related to us from the folks who try again.

One example may suffice. A group of about 40 teachers who belonged to a sorority, with their flower being the African violet, invited us to do a workshop. At the end of the program, two of the teachers told us of their previous failures. They decided to try again and purchased one plant. One of the teachers was the president of the state sorority. She later invited us to conduct a program for 120 members in a statewide meeting.

The beauty of that program was that these same two ladies rose to testify about the success they had by following our directions after the earlier workshop.

In reality, they were really treating their plants properly, and the plants were showing their appreciation by creating beautiful flowers.



Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Chairman
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
email: promers@juno.com

PRIORITIES

Membership! Membership! Membership seems to be one of the main concerns of many affiliates. My original intent was to discuss creative ways to reach out and build the affiliate membership. However, after receiving a letter from an AVSA member who joined a local affiliate, I decided that before finding ways of attracting members, the affiliates need to make sure they are ready to keep the members they attract. Therefore, this column will be addressing that issue - making sure the affiliates have their "priorities" in order.

The purposes of AVSA as stated in its bylaws and in THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S HANDBOOK FOR GROWERS, EXHIBITORS, AND JUDGES are to:

1. provide a convenient association for people interested in African violets;
2. stimulate interest in propagation and culture of African violets;
3. promote distribution of all varieties and species among members and others interested in growing them;
4. publish reliable, practical information about plants and the organization.

The purposes of all affiliates should be in accord with those of AVSA. All decisions that are made should reflect the "priority" of those purposes. Most of the club bylaws that I have seen, either because I have been a member of those clubs or have had copies forwarded to me, state purposes that do coincide with those of AVSA. I think most affiliates and affiliate members agree with them. The problem seems to be in following through with them. Either the purposes are overlooked when decisions are made or individuals forget about the club when decisions apply to them personally.

The letter I received was from a lady who was very disappointed with her initial encounter with the local affiliate. First of all, she joined at the January meeting which was about half way through the club year, which began in September and ended in May. She was asked to

pay a full year's dues. In May, just a few months later, she was asked to pay another full year's dues. I realize that this is a very common occurrence. Most affiliates find it easier to establish an annual dues amount no matter what time of the club year a person joins. I don't fault any affiliate for that. There are some other alternatives you might consider. I have been a member of many clubs and have joined half way through the year more than once. One club prorated the annual dues half way through the club year. I paid half of the club's annual dues. Another club didn't want to bother prorating the dues and didn't want me to pay a full year of dues for just a few months, even though I was willing. The members suggested that I wait until the end of the year to pay when the annual dues were due again. I was welcome to attend and participate in all meetings and activities and they sent me the newsletter as well. The only thing I couldn't do was vote. I believe that they were trying in accordance with the purposes of their bylaws to make me feel welcome and not as if they were after my money.

The experience of paying dues twice in such a short time in itself might not seem like the club was after this new affiliate member's money, but her second experience wasn't any different. As a new member, she was seeking help. She called a member of the club to find out how to mix her own soil. The response she got was that they can't help her, but the club had soil that they mixed to sell and they would be happy to sell her some. She was disappointed to say the least, feeling that all they wanted from her was her money. Needless to say, that club lost a member. The "priority" of the local affiliate should not have been to make money but rather to "stimulate interest in propagation and culture of African violets."

Are your club's purposes parallel to those of AVSA? Are your club's decisions and actions made in accordance with those same purposes? Are you ready to keep the new members you get? Do your visitors and new members feel wanted? Because you need them? Or because you really want to help them? Make sure that your purposes are "ready" and that you aim to promote those purposes or goals in all you say and do. That way, you will be ready to

maintain those members that we will creatively seek in the upcoming column. Many clubs have specific ideas/plans designed to help the new member become a growing part of the affiliate. I urge you to share some of those ideas with me for a future column. I would love to hear from both the affiliate member and your club's plans as well as from any new members who felt the outreach of the affiliate members.

On a brighter note I want to thank everyone who attended the Affiliate Meeting in Sacramento and to those who sent or brought their yearbooks, newsletters, and show schedules to share. I learned so much that I know will be helpful in sharing with the affiliates in the coming year. I'm sure everyone who attended went home with ideas to share with their own affiliates. I want to remind all the affiliates who were unable to have a representative present at the meeting to be sure to observe the publication deadlines for all show and plant sales. By getting the announcements to the "Coming Events" on time, your announcement will not only be listed in the AVM, it will also

be shown on the AVSA web site enabling it to be viewed by everyone having access to the internet.

As we approach the end of the year, some of you may have some leftover copies of your yearbooks and/or newsletters that you could send to the affiliate committee for ideas and for sharing with other new affiliates. I welcome them all, no matter how large or small. Many affiliates do not want to publish elaborate yearbooks. I would like very much to see some examples of concise, practical yearbooks to share. In addition, many of you are in the process of completing a term of office and are installing officers for the upcoming year. Be sure to send a list of your new officers to the AVSA office by June 1 or as soon thereafter as possible in order to have the current President listed in the September issue of the magazine.

I wish you all a happy summer and time of vacationing as well as planning for another affiliate year. As you make your plans, please feel free to contact me for any assistance or ideas to share. We are all here to share and grow together.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • c/o AVSA Office • 2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702

Donations received from November 30, 1997 - January 31, 1998

Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO	\$5.00
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Jim Whitfield</i>	
Illinois AVS, Arlington Heights, IL	\$25.00
African Violet Study Club, Montgomery, AL	\$10.00
<i>Our club disbanded, donation in honor of Willy Beaker</i>	
Lau Hin Cheung, Konloon, Hong Kong	\$10.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Theodore Williams</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$10.00
Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA	\$10.00

Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Charlie Pryor</i>	
Delphine R. Hotchkiss, Sun City, AZ	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Maude Teater, a very dear friend</i>	
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI	\$25.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	\$5.00
Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Smith, Rochester, NY	\$25.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	\$10.00
Covington AVS, Andalusia, AL	\$10.00
Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX	\$5.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI	\$10.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from December 1, 1997 to January 31, 1998

First of Dallas AVS, Dallas, Texas	\$25.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	\$225.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Ruth Hardaway</i>	
Iris Keating, Claremont, CA	\$15.00
<i>In memory of Mr. Ed Shirley</i>	
Baja Oregon Bloomers, Yreka, CA	\$10.00
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	\$10.00
Margaret H. Adair, Duluth, GA	\$10.00
Lau Hin Cheung, Hong Kong	\$10.00
Christal Dennis, Jackson, MS	\$2.00
African Violet Society of South Bay, Cupertino, CA	\$25.00
Carroll R. McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA	\$10.00
Christine Davis, Harrison, ME	\$5.00
James T. Kuczma, Sterling Heights, MI	\$25.00

Nancy Corse, Media, PA	\$10.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	\$30.00
Adelaide Kory, Alta Loma, CA	\$12.00
Onalee McEwen, Houston, TX	\$2.50
Mrs. Jon Gerand, Phoenix, AZ	\$2.00
LaVella Reynolds, Springfield, MO	\$10.00
Uldene Short, Flowertown Violet Club, Summerville, SC	\$25.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI	\$10.00
Mrs. Barbara Masters, Akron, CO	\$10.00
Victoria Frey, Old Bridge, NJ	\$25.00
Lois C. Foger, Liberal, MO	\$2.00
Pat Barthalomew, Carlisle, IA	\$2.00

Total \$537.50

Keeping Track of Your Collection

by Elizabeth Whitesides • Raleigh, NC

Any dedicated grower knows how many details are involved in growing African violets to their peak. We are always adding new plants to our collection, grooming, feeding, repotting, pruning, propagating, spraying and hopefully just enjoying our "babies." Whenever we handle our plants, we make numerous observations that could help us in our growing efforts. I believe a serious grower, especially one who is "growing to show", should have a record keeping system to organize all this valuable information. It can be an excellent tool for improving your growing skills and therefore your collection.

At the very least you should know exactly what you have in your collection. Each plant needs to be carefully labeled. You can either write the name of the plant on the pot with a permanent marker, or attach sticky labels to each pot. I believe these methods are preferable to using plastic plant marker sticks for two reasons. One, the plant markers can easily fall out, and two, the markers can cause damage to leaves, petioles or simply skew the plant's symmetry. I use sticky labels with a waterproof marker, and on each label I write the plant's name (and number I have assigned, if I have more than one of a particular variety) and the date it was last repotted. For example, I might write "Apache Love 1, 7/25/97 ts". This tells me this is my Apache Love parent plant, and I last repotted it Texas Style on 7/25/97.

It is a good idea to also keep track of how many of a particular cultivar or variety you have. This information will keep you from giving away or trying some lethal experiment on the last plant of a favorite cultivar or variety without first putting down some leaves. I have heard many people lament making those mistakes.

Leaves you put down should also be carefully labeled with the cultivar or variety name and the date you put them down. I learned this lesson myself when I put down a tray of leaves and thought, "of course I will remember what is what." After a month or so, I could not remember what half of them were, and now I have to wait until they bloom to be sure. Leaves look a lot less distinctive sitting alone in a cup of dirt!

After you have created a list of the plants in your collection, start to keep track of things such as feeding schedules, pesticide applications, where and when your

plants were purchased, new techniques you have tried and their results, as well as the individual characteristics of your plants. My system may be a bit involved for your needs, but I hope you at least get some good ideas!

I keep an index card box with a 3" x 5" card for each plant. If I have more than one of a particular cultivar or variety, they are labeled "(Cultivar/Variety name) 1" "(Cultivar/Variety name) 2" etc., and each one has its own card. On the card I write:

1. The name, AVSA registration number and hybridizer. Having the full name and registration number will help you to fill out your show entry cards. Noting the hybridizer is important because you may then notice that a certain hybridizer's plants do very well for you, while another's do not. This information is particularly helpful for the newer grower. I have noticed that plants from certain hybridizers do quite well for me with little effort, while I fuss like crazy over another hybridizer's plants with no real success. This is the kind of information you can take on a shopping spree!
2. The MVL description. Recording this information helps you determine if what you think you have is really what you have, and what to "shoot for" - especially if you want to show this plant. With the description in mind, you will know if your plant is blooming true, is an appropriate size, etc.
3. Date the variety was purchased, from whom, and in what form - ie. starter plantlet, mature plant, leaf. If it is a leaf, I note when I put it down, when the first baby appeared, and when it first flowered. If it is a starter plantlet, I note its first flowering. Knowing how fast a plant grows and flowers is good information for show preparation or a hybridizing program. I keep track of where I purchase plants because I want to remember who sold me good, clean stock, and who sold me thrips, mealybugs, etc! When I find a good grower, I can go back again and again with confidence (not too much confidence though - no matter where you get them, always isolate new plants and leaves).
4. "Inside Information" Why did I buy this plant? Was it a knock-out at a show, on a "top-ten" list, or did I just

fall in love at the nursery? If the person who recommended the plant or from whom I bought it gives me any tips or special information, I write that down here. For example, "prefers natural light", "very sensitive to fertilizer", or "variegation hard to maintain".

5. Any chemical applications (other than food), when, why and result. When your plants are in a crisis is not the time to be thinking, "now was it Malathion or Marathon I used last time?" or "which of these fungicides left those horrible white spots all over the leaves?"
6. New techniques (potting styles, watering styles, fertilizers, etc.) and their results. You do not want to make the same mistakes twice!
7. My observations: how many flowers it typically puts up, rate of growth, problems, how it handles repotting, light requirements, sensitivity to fertilizer, etc. The more violets you have, the less likely you are to remember who needs what. Use this information to select plants to pamper for show time. This type of

information can also be valuable in setting up a hybridizing program - you can easily select violets with specific characteristics. It may also help you diagnose future problems with new plants.

8. Final disposition. If I give a plant away, I note to whom and when. If the plant died, I try to note why - should I try again or just forget it?

This system takes some time to set up initially, but it is easy to maintain. I update the cards when I buy new plants, have a major event like a mass repotting session, or any other time I think of it. It may be easier for you to keep track of your collection on a computer, which I will get around to doing some day. It may be enough for your needs to simply keep a journal and note products you like/dislike, techniques you have tried, problems you have encountered and the best solutions, etc. However you do it, once you start to keep track of your collection in an organized way, I think you will be pleasantly surprised to find out just how much you really do know about African violets. And how about sharing some of that great information with the rest of us?

Purple Passion

by Ann Kuperberg • Tucson, Arizona

I am small and delicate.

There is a regal demeanor about me, yet some people see passion in my coloring.

I can be your best friend. Whisper sweet thoughts to me.

Tell me your secrets. I will share your joys and sorrows.

Sing to me, scream your frustrations. I will listen.

I will be your constant companion. Come and go as you please.

I will always be home waiting patiently for you.

On dreary days, I will lighten your spirits.

On sunny days, I will stir spurts of energy in your veins.

I am your soul-mate. All I ask in return is food and shelter.

Give me the sun's warmth without its scorching intensity.

Give me proper nourishment without extremes.

I can be housed in artificial light or in natural rays streaming through a windowpane.

I'm not very demanding. I will flourish.

As in all life, moderation is the key to survival.

If you feed me too little, I will wilt.

If you feed me too much, I will drown.

Every so often I will crave extra vitamins to help me shine.

I will give you unconditional love and beauty.

My delicate loveliness will blossom in my soft purple petals, sunny yellow buds and velvety green heart-shaped leaves.

Once you have loved me, you will love no other in the same way.

My purple passion will always remain.

I am an African violet.

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Alice Corinne** (8680) 1/20/98 (D. Harrington) Double dark purple pansy/near-black edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, spooned, longifolia, quilted, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**

***Judith Karen** (8681) 1/20/98 (D. Harrington) Double dark blue large star/some pink. **Variegated** medium green and creamy yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped. **Standard**

Clara Hobbs - San Antonio, TX

***Dean's Faded Rose** (8682) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Double wine/old rose shading. **Mosaic variegated** green, pink and white, plain, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Peach Blush** (8683) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single pale peach sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Silver Veil** (8684) 1/28/98 (C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble silver-blue lavender pansy/darker veining, overlay. **Variegated** green, pink and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**

Kay Hobbs-Gregg - San Antonio, TX

***Dean's Bashful** (8685) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Semidouble white ruffled/hot pink rays. **Variegated** olive green and white, quilted, scalloped. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Brandywine** (8686) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark burgundy sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green and white, ovate. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Freckles** (8687) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble pink/blue fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Lady Bug** (8688) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped/red back. **Miniature**

***Dean's Lucienne** (8689) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/darker band, white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate, glossy. **Semiminiature**

***Dean's Rosalie** (8690) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Double rose two-tone. **Variegated** dark green and white, heart-shaped/red back. **Miniature**

***Dean's Ruby** (8691) 1/28/98 (K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble fuchsia pansy/darker top petals. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

***Rebel's Crested Robin** (8692) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble bright red pansy/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Night Breezes** (8693) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Purple Shadows** (8694) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble orchid-purple two-tone pansy/ black-purple edge. **Variegated** dark green, tan and rose, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Splatter Kake** (8695) 1/31/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star/darker eye, purple fantasy, white-green edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

REGISTRATION CHANGES

(Description changes **boldfaced**)

Dean's Legacy (7679) - size change from Semiminiature to **Miniature**

Fantastic Fantasy (8576) - blossom description change to: **Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy; variable darker pink stripe.**

Rebel's Ambrosia (8300) - Semidouble pink pansy/darker **band**, thin white frilled edge.

Hopefully Helpful Handy Hints

by Ruth Grieco
Brookline, MA

Once again, we are about to enter a new season. This season definitely means that we are going to pay more attention to our plants...unfortunately, it may be our OUTDOOR plants! DON'T DO IT! Don't neglect your violets! Remember, these are the same plants which you praised in the dead of winter for giving you blossoms...these are the same plants which you may have entered in your local show last May, which may have taken home a ribbon because they were so magnificent! They've been there for us, but have we always been there for them?

Well, I can honestly say that I have always tried to be there for my violets because I have a theory about them. The longer I grow them, the more I am beginning to believe that they are constantly "talking" to me. Think about it...they tell you when they are getting too much light, too little light, too much fertilizer, too little fertilizer, too much water, too little water, etc. All you need to know is their "language" in order to communicate with them!

Here are some examples: If your plant is getting too much light, it will "tell" you by changing the color of its leaves. The leaves will begin to get bleached out and if you respond to your plant's "chatter" by moving it further away from the source of light, or reducing the number of hours it is exposed to light, then you can, oftentimes, reverse any permanent damage. Conversely, if your plant is not getting enough light, it will often show its displeasure by not putting forth any blooms.

If you are giving your plant too much fertilizer, it will often show its unhappiness by getting a very tight center, or maybe even lose its crown altogether. It might even go so far as to form misshapen leaves. Too little fertilizer might be evidenced by smaller-than-normal leaves and/or lack of blossoms.

Probably the most important thing I have learned about my plants' running commentary is that it is almost as if they have plotted to take their sweet time to "tell" me of their dissatisfaction with their treatment. It could take months for an over-fertilized plant to finally reveal its tight crown to me. It's almost as if the plant is saying, "See...if you had paid more attention to me..."

The point here is consistency in care. Don't forsake your violets in the summer because your outdoor garden holds a greater interest. At very minimum, at least water your violets on a regular basis. This small effort will pay off down the road when your garden begins to die off and you're ready for the beauty of your violets once again.

A few quick summer hints to help keep the "chattering" to a minimum:

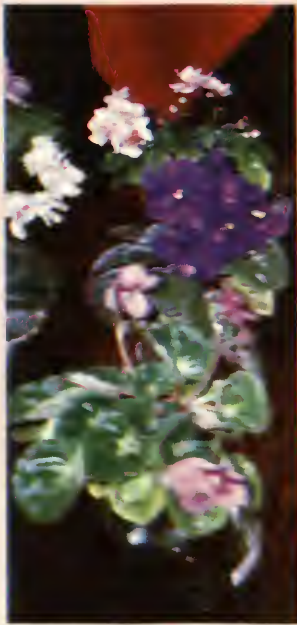
- Water on a regular basis. Your violets may dry out more quickly in the summer, so they should be checked at least once a week.
- They prefer to have air circulating around them, so placing a small fan near (but not directly on) them is beneficial.
- Keep small containers of water near the violets to increase the amount of available humidity around them.
- Some growers cut back on fertilizer during the summer. You can, if you wish. I tend to keep up my regular routine.
- Remember to keep grooming your plants throughout the summer. A small sucker in July may be a second crown by September if left unattended.
- Be consistent. Maintain whatever regimen you and your violets are used to. That extra effort will definitely pay off in the long run.

Good luck and happy growing!

*Reprinted with permission from
"Ye Bay Stater", publication of the Bay State AVS*

My Plant, the Doctor - A Medical Miracle

by Frank Martin
Seattle, WA



*"Doctor," the plant with
dark blossoms*

It began as an ordinary visit to the doctor's office. Who would have known that by the day's end I was destined to deliver my doctor's twins, right there in her waiting room?

O.K., they were twin violets. And O.K., they were delivered from her office to my home! But it was an emergency nonetheless, and in the eyes of my little herd of *Saintpaulias*, I'm a hero. So here's the story:

It was one of those rare times when I've found myself alone in the waiting room, and not being much of a magazine reader, I turned my attention to the huge display of Hawaiian flora and began to putter among the foliage. Peeking over the little fence that divided people from plants, I saw a lovely foil-wrapped gift pot containing what looked like the dried remains of an African violet.

Upon closer inspection of the withered debris, it became apparent that the deceased had been a plant with

two long necks and dark blue double flowers. Here was a case that defied modern medicine, to be sure. Had there been a 911 for plants, I would have certainly rushed for the phone. Instead, I carried the pot to the front desk and asked if I might have a cup of water. The doctor's receptionist replied that she had just watered the plant. Wondering whether it was over or under watering that had been the fatal mistake, I replied that I intended to do surgery there at the desk. Taking out my jackknife, I removed both crowns from their necks, leaving a small stub on each. It was clear that even if the stubs had been able to draw water, the leaves could not wait another moment. I dropped both tiny, crepe-like crowns into the plastic drinking cup, where they floated. In the exam room, they were the first thing I showed the doctor. She pronounced them dead but agreed to give them to me.

Once home, I re-floated the little patients in a saucer of lukewarm water in the humid environment of the kitchen. Having some previous experience in plant CPR, I had discovered that leaves will substitute as roots, taking over the function of drawing in water when the existing root system is inadequate. As for the warm water, I thought it would help the pores of the leaves open and absorb better, in addition to lessening shock.

For weeks the two patients floated, looking as dark and shriveled as ever. Then one day, tiny green growth appeared at the centers. They were alive! They remained in the saucers until roots had formed, after which they were transferred to a jar of water. The day soon came when they looked like young, healthy plants and could be placed in clay pots on a wick system. I kept one and gave one away, naming mine (unofficially) "Doctor Violet."

About a year after it had been pronounced dead, Doctor Violet put forth a full head of beautiful blue double flowers over glowing green foliage. Not having an official name, this plant will not be winning any blue ribbons, but no ribbon in the world could compare to the joy of participating in this miracle of life triumphant. Besides, after a near death experience and recovery like that, I think these brave little *Saintpaulia* twins deserve more than a ribbon. I think they deserve a medal!

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 FRI	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
2 SAT 4:49 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
3 SUN	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:04 am
4 MON 2:47 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
5 TUE	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
6 WED	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
7 THU 3:19 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
8 FRI	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
9 SAT 4:10 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
10 SUN	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
11 MON	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full 9:30 am
12 TUE 3:48 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
14 WED	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
14 THU 1:40 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 FRI	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
16 SAT 9:31 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
17 SUN	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
18 MON	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 11:36 pm
19 TUE 3:04 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
20 WED	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
21 THU 6:06 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
22 FRI	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
23 SAT 7:06 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
24 SUN	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
25 MON 7:25 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 2:52 pm
26 TUE	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
27 WED 8:58 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 THU	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
29 FRI 1:38 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
30 SAT	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
31 SUN 10:21 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st

June Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 8:45 pm
2 TUE	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
3 WED 10:17 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
4 THU	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 FRI 11:06 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 SUN	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
8 MON 10:55 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
9 TUE	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	Full 11:19 pm
10 WED 7:51 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 THU	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 FRI	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
13 SAT 3:03 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
14 SUN	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
15 MON 8:32 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
16 TUE	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
17 WED 12:23 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 5:38 am
18 THU	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
19 FRI 2:47 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
20 SAT	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
21 SUN 4:26 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
22 MON	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
23 TUE 6:39 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	New 10:50 pm
24 WED	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 THU 11:04 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
26 FRI	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
27 SAT	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
28 SUN 6:55 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
29 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
30 TUE 6:06 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 36, 38 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

Regional Reviews (Part 2)

compiled by Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Dr.
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

This is the second group of regional reviews for 1998. This time we have reviews from Colorado, California, Florida, Canada, Minnesota, and Japan.

*Our lead reviewer is **Bev Promersberger** of **Monument, Colorado**. Bev is an outstanding grower who has the distinct advantage of having lived in numerous locations throughout the United States. She is a true veteran of adjusting conditions based on varying growing environments.*

Where grown: Main floor of a three story home

Temperature range: 65-72 degrees F.

Humidity: Winter 39% - 59%

Summer 34% - 70%

Watering system: Standards - wicking

Miniatures - matting

Primary fertilizer used: 20-20-20

Lighting: I use one cool white and one Gro

Lux wide spectrum. My lights are on 10-12 hours a day, 10 in the summer and 12 in the winter. I use the daylight saving time in the fall to increase them to 12 and the daylight saving time in the spring to decrease them to 10.

Soil Mix: 16 cups soil mix

8 cups perlite

8 cups vermiculite

1/2 cup dehydrated cow manure

1 1/2 cups charcoal

1 1/2 Tbl. dolomite lime

1 Tbl. ferbate

"I grow in the drier Midwest where the temperatures vary from cold and dry in the winter months to a little more humid in the summer months. The humidity varies from high to low in the same day because of the daily thunder storms which increase the humidity in the evenings and mornings before dropping in the middle of day. We do not have any kind of air conditioning. It's not even installed in this area so we are reliant on less controlled conditions. We can have a few extreme cold days in the winter or even a few very warm days. Because of the trees, the extremes do not usually affect the temperatures too much inside the home. Sometimes I will close the door to my plant room in the winter to keep the temperatures a little warmer and the humidity a little

higher. Because the temperatures in the winter and early spring are consistently on the cool side, it usually takes a minimum of 10 weeks after disbudding stops to bring showplants into show quality bloom.

"'Ceremonial Dance' (Stork) - Even though we have quite a range of temperatures and changes in humidity in this area, I have been very impressed with this variety. The variegation remains very consistent. The symmetry of this variety is showplant quality. Even if you allow blooms to open, the symmetry continues to overlap evenly, filling in the spaces where the bloom stalks were allowed to appear.

"'Irish Flirt' (Lyons) - This semiminature blooms and blooms. I find that the foliage grows better with a little less light than the rest of my small varieties. I place it toward the end of my lights and the foliage grows evenly and symmetrically.

"'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' (Robinson) - This semiminature variety grows itself. The foliage is perfect every time. The blooms outnumber themselves, even in temperatures like ours that are not conducive to good disbudding techniques.

"'Sundown Trail' (Pittman) - I really enjoy growing this semiminature trailer. It grows more like a semi-trailer, but if it is groomed regularly, as all trailers should be, the blue blossoms against the dark green foliage is outstanding."

*Our second reviewer is **Darryl Hoover** from southern California. Darryl is an extremely knowledgeable grower, known throughout Texas and California for the perfect plants he grows. Darryl also dabbles in hybridizing, introducing only plants that meet his stringent criteria: they must win Best of Show!*

"My violets are located in two rooms. The main growing area is located in a spare bedroom, the other area is in my living room. The temperature in both areas, during non-summer months, is between 60 and 80 degrees F. The humidity levels vary from 40 to 60 percent.

"My show plant collection is wick

watered atop individual reservoirs. I use number 36 nylon cord, purchased at Walmart, as my wicking material. It works well on pot sizes from 2 1/4" to 4". My seedlings, hybridizing stock and sale plants are watered via Texas Style.

"My mix is 'Premier Pro-Mix BX' (screened). I add equal parts of perlite to the Pro-Mix. I also add 1 cup Bone Meal to every eight quarts of Pro-Mix.

"I began using Dyna-Gro (7-9-5) in May of 1997 and have been extremely impressed with its performance. I have not had any fertilizer burn, no fertilizer buildup in the crown and the plants look greener and healthier than they ever have since I began using it. Although some have said bloom count has suffered when they switched to the Dyna-Gro (7-9-5), I have not experienced any drop off in blossom count. The addition of the Bone Meal may explain why my bloom count hasn't fallen. I do intend to incorporate Dyna-Gro's Bloom formula into my fertilizer regimen.

"This year I've been very impressed with 'Windsome' (Pittman). It's a miniature with dark green foliage, which is extremely symmetrical, topped with medium blue semidouble blossoms boasting a geneva edge.

"'Rob's Antique Rose' (Robinson) is another that has done quite well. It is rarely without bloom, shapes up very nicely and really shows well. An oldie that is indeed my FAVORITE showplant is 'Petite Jewel' (Pittman). If I had a nickel for every time I've won Best Miniature with it I'd have at least a dollar. It has two-tone purple/blue blossoms that nearly hide the flawless variegated foliage. If I could only grow one plant, 'Petite Jewel' would be it. 'Dean's Lady Bug' (Hobbs) is a 1997 introduction that has been very impressive. Next to 'Petite Jewel', you'd be hard pressed to find a miniature with better foliage. It stays quite small, maybe maturing at 4", has very nice s/d dark, dark fuchsia blossoms which make this little guy a perfect show plant.

"I had a hard time growing 'Rob's Hallucination'. Great foliage...just never bloomed. Guess it doesn't like me. 'Rob's Sarsparilla' bloomed, and bloomed and bloomed but the foliage grew a bit large under my conditions. I had high hopes for 'Sassy Sister', but this sport of 'Irish Flirt' just didn't seem to have the same killer instincts."

Phyllis King was last year's sweepstakes winner at the St. Pete Beach convention in addition to many other awards she won. Phyllis' plants are perfection; masses of blooms, well-grown foliage with perfect symmetry, and are meticulously groomed. She hails from Clearwater, Florida where growing violets can be both extremely easy and extremely trying.

"I'm a member of the Upper Pinellas African Violet Society. I have always had violets and I have been growing for show since 1988. I have had several Best in Show. I love growing almost anything. I can truly say African violets are number one for me.

"Growing violets in a southern state is really very different. We have a lot of humidity and fungus to deal with. In the summer, most of us only have our air on 78 degrees and during the winter we drop back to 70 degrees. We use very little heating. It can get a little stagnate in the house, so we use ceiling fans at all times. Mildew is a big problem. My humidity stays about 60%. When there is no air or heating, I sometimes use a dehumidifier. I have 21 shelves of plants, in different parts of my house. This helps to keep them cool. I use a light soil:

3 parts Volkmann soil
3 parts perlite
2 parts large vermiculite
1 part Baccto
1/2 cup of charcoal/1 T Dolomite Lime/
1 T Super Phosphate

"I grow almost all my plants starting from leaves. This helps keeps bugs out, somewhat. When I start my leaves, I wash them with a weak solution of water and bleach. I then fill the bottom half of a Dixie cup (Texas Style) with perlite, and top it off with my regular potting soil. I cover each with a plastic lunch bag that has a small hole at the top. The hole lets air in and prevents moisture condensation. When the babies appear, I remove the bag. I use Volkmann fertilizer 15-30-15, 1/8 teaspoon, and a drop of Superthrive all the time.

"When potting up my baby plants, I put a generous amount of perlite in the bottom of each pot along with a wick, then the soil. I water the plant with a mixture of a few drops of Fredette's Allegro to a quart of water and 4 drops of Superthrive. I also disbud when I repot so the plant can concentrate on getting established in the soil. I fill the pot with roots before it has to think about flowers. All younger plants and leaves are grown in trays that have foam rubber carpet padding in the bottoms of the trays. They get 11 hours of light a day.

"I repot about every 3 months. At the next potting they go on their own reservoirs. My lights are on 12 to 13 hours a day, except when preparing for show, then they will reach 15 hours. I use one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube and one Standard Gro-Lux in each light fixture. I replace one tube in the spring and one in the fall on the ones I am growing for show.

"'Apache Bandit' - I got a leaf and grew it from a baby. I just love the foliage; it has ruffled pink and white variegated leaves. It has the big semidouble pansy dark

purple bloom with a slight green frilled edge. It is the size of a large ring now. I love it.

“‘Rob’s Sarsaparilla’ - I received the plant at convention. It is doing very well. At first it wanted to grow big. I repotted and it seems to be coming along fine. It has dark green leaves, which are frilled and serrated. So they lie down nicely. It’s a semi, with an unusual bloom. It’s light pink with a frilled brown and green edge.

“‘Rob’s Miriwinni Trail’ - This plant I also got at convention. I transplanted it and it blooms all the time. It puts out small little flying plants and they bloom. The blooms do fall off after a while. It’s a chimera - pink pansy with blue stripe and dark blue fantasy throughout. Nice grower.

“‘Victorian Valentine’ - I got this plant from a friend. It has a very pretty bloom. It is a single star fuchsia with a wide white edge. The leaves are large green ruffled. At first, I did not think it would grow to a nice size. After I saw it in a show, I think I will keep growing it.”

Canada’s representative is Irene Henry. Residing in Quebec, Irene is very active in the African Violet Society of Canada with her particular area of interest being the small ones. Evidently she does very well with them as she’s quite a showman too!

“During the twenty some years of growing African violets, I have tried every conceivable growing method written or talked about, always looking for the one to suit growing conditions at the time. To clarify, there were three residence changes during these years.

“The daytime temperature in my current basement plant room is usually 80 degrees and can go higher on hot July days. When lights go out, it is a comfortable 70 degrees. Humidity ranges between 50 and 55%.

“As my collection grew to multiply in the hundreds a self-watering system became the solution. Each shelf on my plant stands accommodate four 11 x 21 inch trays. Egg crating is cut to snugly fit each tray, making sure that it will rest above the water level. A length of matting, 10 x 24 inches, which has been soaked and wrung out, is then draped over the crating with the two ends falling into the tray.

“To a gallon of water, I add a scant 1/8 tsp of 20-20-20 plus 1 drop of Superthrive. This amount is poured into each tray and will not require refilling for about two weeks. 20-20-20 is used all year round, but 10 weeks before show, I use 5-50-17 for 3 weeks and at 7 weeks change to 12-26-14 until show.

“The majority of my plants are semi-minis and I use mostly 2-1/4 inch pots which are all wicked with a 4 inch length of Orlon Acrylic yarn extended from the top of the

pot with the excess resting on the moist mat. The yarn is a fine four ply quality.

“I use a prepared AV soil supplied by one of our Commercial Growers. It is an excellent growing medium but I lighten it again by adding an extra cup of perlite to every four cups of soil. About four cups of Worm Casting is also added to eight quarts of soil.

“Each fixture has a cool white and warm white tube which are on a daily 12 hour schedule. However, nine weeks before show, I increase them by one hour each week until 15 hours is reached. After the show, they are decreased by one hour per week until they are on 12 hours once again.

“I first came across the following varieties in 1995 and continue growing them in my collection as they are easy to grow and are proven show winners. ‘Rob’s Whippoorwill’ is an eye catching semi-miniature with symmetrical Champion variegated foliage with a mass of s/d pink apple blossom type with darker tips. It was a Best in Show winner in 1996.

“‘Rob’s Match Point’ - another spectacular semi and Best in Show winner in 1997. It has medium green, easy growing symmetrical foliage topped with a mass of white stars with a broad blue edge, almost resembles a Chimera pattern.

“‘Ness’ Angel Babe’ - a delightful miniature with small dark green, very symmetrical growing foliage almost hidden by a mound of double pink blooms. Won Best Mini in last three shows.

“There are many other favorites which I keep growing in my collection - ‘Little Pro’, ‘Optimara Little Crystal’, ‘Rob’s Fuddy Duddy’, ‘Rob’s Doohickey’; all big winners in previous shows and each outstanding for producing hundreds of blooms and ease of growing.”

*Traveling slightly south and west, we now visit **Palma Trapp of Minnesota.** Palma is well known to convention goers for her expertly grown plants! Her plants have graced the winner’s table frequently, with Palma having won at least one Best in Show at national convention.*

“My violet room is located on the lower level of our home, with temperatures around 70-80 degrees the year round, humidity at 35-50%, and air conditioning in summer when needed.

“My watering system consists of wick watering for all the small ones including a few trailers. The standards are watered individually: they rest in individual plastic saucers. I use foliar feeding in the form of a light mist at least once per month on all violets including the variegates, alternating with Ra-Pid-Gro, fish emulsion and Dyna-Gro.

“My soil mix is very light: 3-2-1 mixture with trace

elements. It works well for wicking.

"I use one cool white deluxe light bulb and one wide spectrum in most of my light fixtures. Lights are maintained at 12 hours on and 12 hours off most of the time. I disbud all show plants 7 to 8 weeks prior to a show. Some doubles will require more time to flower during winter months, however not all varieties will cooperate 100% after disbudding.

"'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'—semidouble dark orchid pansies, plain dark foliage. Blooms well for me with 7-9 blooms per stem. A nice compact semi mini that stays small under wicking conditions and also works well in a design.

"'Everdina' — Double lavender, violet blue fantasy is the description of this miniature. An older variety but still very popular in shows. It grows well for me, transplanted every four to six months, with excellent bloom.

"'Definitely Darryl' — Semiminature single and semi double medium blue, white edge, variegated foliage, slow grower, however the end result is great. Long lasting blooms and nice foliage. This plant scored 100 points in a mini and semi collection at one of our affiliate shows.

"'Ness' Angel Blush' — Excellent flat growing variegated foliage; stays within its mini size. Blush white blooms that last well. Also used this plant in a small design with good results."

The final review was contributed by Ken'ichi Okishita of Tokyo, Japan. Ken has his own African violet business in Japan, and attended the St. Pete Beach convention with his wife. Thank you, Ken!

"I grow *Saintpaulia* in my room. It is on the 9th floor of a condominium. There is a window to the southeast and the morning sun pours in. I raise almost all my plants inside a "case". The case is made of transparent plastic, shaped like a hat box. The environment inside the case is as follows: temperature: 16-24 Celsius, humidity: 40-60%.



"Case"

"My fluorescent lights are on 10-12 hours per day. I make my own potting mix. It is a light mixture for wick watering: 70% vermiculite, 20% venuslite (like perlite), 10% white silica. The silica has the effect of absorbing excessive nitrogen. It releases what it absorbs, as nitrogen in a soil-less mix is used by the plant insufficiently (oxidation is prevented). In Japan, white silica is useful to many plants. I do not use peat moss because it holds a surplus of moisture if used in wick watering. This can cause the roots to rot. However, in Japan during the winter, it is drier. I may add peat moss to my soil at the rate of 10% (1 part peat to 9 parts the original mix).

"I use chemical fertilizer alternated with organic fertilizer. Both are liquid fertilizers.

"I exhibited two African violets for our show in November. One was 'Dorothy Parker' by H. Eyerdorn. I like the blue-lavender and a variable green fringed edge flower. This year, 'White Pride' has many flowers in bloom. It is simplicity and has beautiful white flowers."

- A clear plastic "zip lock" bag makes a good "tent" for a small seed bed planted in a tray. The seam can be closed completely or left partially open to regulate humidity. Toothpicks can be used on the inside to keep it from touching the soil.
- Help your fresh-cut flowers last longer. Cut stems at an angle under water so no air bubbles can form to stop the free flow of water into the stem. Remove leaves from below the waterline, as decaying plant material poisons the water. The best preserving solution is 2 TBL white vinegar and 2 TBL cane sugar in a quart of water. The vinegar inhibits the growth of organisms and the sugar serves as food.
- If you are experiencing leaf spotting after potting up or after potting a long necked plant down, try putting your plants in total darkness for 48 hours before putting them back under the lights.

WATERING

One of the most often asked questions about growing African violets relates to watering, "How much water do they need, and how often?"

African violets are susceptible to damage from too much water. Their roots and succulent crown and leaf stems may simply rot away if the potting mix is kept too wet. They also suffer if subjected to long periods of dryness and alternating periods of severe dry and sodden soil is often the quickest way to kill an African violet.

The amount and frequency of water needed, varies according to the size and state of growth of the plant, and according to the weather. More water is needed by large plants, plants in need of repotting, plants which are flowering, during periods of hot weather, or when humidity is low. Less watering is needed by small plants, plants recently repotted and during periods of mild temperatures and high humidity.

It doesn't matter in the least how you water your plants. You may forget the story about only watering from below. It is my understanding that rain in Africa falls from above just as it does in other parts of the world, which also puts paid to the story about never getting the leaves wet. A certain amount of care should be taken, however.

Watering from above - top watering

Although a few drops of water on the leaves of the plant will do no harm, it is not a good idea to leave large bubbles of moisture in the very center of the plant. These are the most delicate leaves and most prone to damage. So if you want to water from the top of the pot use a long spouted water can to apply the water directly to the surface of the mix.

Your violet needs water when the soil is slightly dry, but not so dry it begins to leave the sides of the pot. Never let the plant go so dry it goes limp and never let the air holes in the bottom of the pot remain covered by water for any length of time.

The frequency between waterings varies as in summer they will need watering more often than in winter.

When watering use tepid water until it begins to run out the drainage holes - then drain well. Plants can be leached every so often to remove any excess fertilizer salt build-up.

Using tepid water is an important point. Cold water, especially on a very hot day, or in the middle of winter may be much colder than the temperature of the roots. The plant will suffer a shock and slow down in growth.

Watering from below - bottom watering

This could apply to any of the automatic types of watering systems that hobby growers employ, but mostly we use the term to apply to sitting the pot in a saucer or bowl of water and waiting for it to absorb the water from underneath. Once again use tepid water and do not leave the pot sitting in the saucer of water any longer than needed for the mix to become properly watered.

Wick watering - the prince of watering methods.

There are so many good points about wick watering. It is the great favorite method. It uses a **synthetic** cord of some kind passing through a hole in the bottom of the pot up into the potting mix.

Naturally it is much easier to insert the wick at the time of potting the plant, though with the assistance of a crochet needle or similar hook it is not impossible to add it later. The plant should be potted up normally with the wick in place. When finished potting, either stand the pot in a saucer or tray of water until the mix is thoroughly dampened, or water from the top until the water runs freely down the wick. Place the pot on its water reservoir to draw water by capillary action up the wick as it is required.

The water reservoir is just something to hold the water - it can quite literally be anything which will hold water. Your ingenuity can be your guide. The important thing is that the pot holding the plant must not be in the water, but the wick must be. The most common reservoir is the take away food container with a couple of holes punched in the lid. If the look of this type of container does not suit, you can insert the reservoir and the pot into a larger decorative pot so that only the violet is visible.

Advantages of wick watering:

- No more decisions on when and how much - the plant decides.
- Ease of fertilizing.

- Watering carries on even when you are absent. Go on holidays and come home to beautiful flowering plants.
- Because moisture level is constant, growth is quick and even. When growth is strong, flowers appear in rapid succession.

Texas style watering - what's that?

Naturally it is a method of watering which came from Texas, and yes, like wick watering, it does grow very strong, large African violets. It is a little different in that the pots are allowed to stand in water.

The method mimics that of African violets in the wild which grow in pockets of soil and leaf mold above rocky rubble that is washed by seepage from constant rains. The violet roots penetrate the soil and leaf mold for moisture. Applying that to container grown plants means that you fill the bottom of the pot with an aggregate of some kind and plant above this. And stand the pot in a tray of water to grow.

The Texas pot should have two rows of holes around the bottom of the pot and the top lot of holes should be about 1/3 up from the bottom. The pot is then filled from the bottom to a little over the top row of holes with a 50/50

mixture of perlite and charcoal... the remainder of the pot is filled with normal potting mix and the plant, of course.

Perlite and/or charcoal make the best aggregate for the bottom of pots and admit plenty of air as well as holding some moisture even after the trays or saucers run dry. Water should be replenished about a day after it has all been used up.

The holes in the pot are mostly there to indicate how high to fill with aggregate, and how much water can be put in the saucer or tray. (Water should not be higher than the level of the aggregate in the pot.) However, making holes in pots can be a slow process (best tool: soldering iron) and the plastic fumes are dangerous to inhale.

Many growers favor the Texas method for their small plants, using disposable foam coffee cups for pots, since the rows of holes are easy to make in the soft foam. The tops of the coffee cups can be cut off too, to make a shallower pot. Growth of plantlets is fast in this method, and the plant is soon ready for repotting and moving on to a larger pot.

Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet", publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.



Once upon a time, I remember it well, around 1984 or '85, I think, I had all my potting up to date. I recall standing there, virtually with repotting tools in hand and realizing that I could not possibly do anything to another plant until something had grown a bit.

That was then. It has never happened again, and is not at all likely to do so. However, lately I have been doing a lot of potting. I haven't completely caught up, but almost. Here is my plan for escaping from the tyranny of too many plants awaiting attention, into the freedom of rows of newly potted plants growing on strongly and coming into flower.

Working at it regularly. I find it tiring, and even boring, these days to spend even half a day potting plants. So I have made sure that I do an hour or perhaps two hours most days.

Potting nothing for which there is no discernible need. Our AV Association has four promotions coming up before the show and then there is the show itself. Plants and plantlets will be needed for each, so when potting up all those little plantlets I have managed to discard anything I think won't make a positive contribution.

Discarding the dross. I have hardened my heart and many a plant has been discarded if it required too much attention to rescue it - particularly if it was not one that I desperately needed. Plants which have never been impressive, but which I have kept because I wouldn't let them beat me, have also been turned into garden mulch.

Planting no leaves. I have refused all offers of leaves of new varieties and have not put a leaf down in the last six months.

Refusing all gifts. I have managed to postpone all kind offers of what truly sound like delightful plants until I have everything else up to date.

Giving plants away. Friends can often use a pretty plant, and so can the Raffle table at the Association meetings.

I still have two trays of plantlets to pot up. And, I think, just about enough space to accommodate them when potted. When that has been done, wonder of wonders! I will be there! Briefly though it may be, my potting will be up to date for the first time in 14 years!

Now what about yours? I'll bet many of you also have heaps of plants that need potting and which have been "on hold" for varying lengths of time. We could just about start something like "Violetaholics Anonymous", or perhaps "VioletWatchers"?

Reprinted with permission from "The African Violet" Publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

Coming Events



May 1 - May 3 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Annual Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall, Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Crikil 479 - 3681

May 1 & 2 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
May 1 - 2pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Manozzi (508) 872 - 1478

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter's 44th AV Exhibit & Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ
May 1 - 6pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

May 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVS Show/Sale
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church
E. State St. Extension, Mercerville, NJ
May 1 - 1pm - 8pm
May 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Claudia Schaeffer (609) 448 - 2957
Gary Thurman (609) 499 - 3395

May 1 & 2 - WYOMING

Sheridan AVS Show/Sale
St. Peter's Episcopal Church Hall
May 1 - 10am - 7pm
May 2 - 9am - 2pm

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

MKO Violet Club of Joplin, MO Annual Show
Including plants from the AVC of Bella Vista, AR
Bethany Presbyterian Church
20th & Virginia, Joplin, MO
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
May 2 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Linda Lewis (417) 673 - 3061
Pall Stott (417) 525 - 4234

May 1 - 3 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Spring Show
Beechmont Mall, Anderson Township
May 1 - 1pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - noon - 6pm
Info: (513) 271 - 5678
(606) 384 - 4437

May 2 - CANADA

Vancouver AVC Show/Sale
Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
Oak & 37th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
Hours: 1pm - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall, Clay, NY
Rt. 31, west of Syracuse
Mall Hours
Info: (315) 455 - 2963

May 2 & 3 - WISCONSIN

Crosstown & Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, Madison, WI
May 2 - 10am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2150

May 2 & 3 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Show & Convention
Elgin Holiday Inn, 345 W. River Rd.
May 2 - 1pm - 5:30pm
May 3 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Jan Bruns (630) 837 - 1298

May 2 & 3 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Springfield, Delaware Co.
Springfield Mall, Rt. 320 & Baltimore Pike
May 2 - 11am - 9pm
May 3 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Corse (610) 566 - 5042

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Naugatonic AVS Annual Spring Show
Boothe Memorial Park Hall
Main St. (Putney), Stratford, CT
Exit 53S off Meritt Parkway
May 2 - 1pm - 4pm
May 3 - 10am - 4pm

May 2 & 3 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln., Westport, CT
May 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm
May 3 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570
Cindy O'Brien (203) 846 - 0268

May 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council 43rd Annual Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw, St. Louis, MO
Both days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Ardath Miller (314) 394 - 9190

May 2 & 3 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura Co. AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd. & Main St., Ventura, CA
May 2 - 10am - 6pm
May 3 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 7 - 9 - OHIO

Violets & Friends Club Show/Sale
Miami Valley Centre Mall, Rt. 36 & I-75
Piqua, OH
May 7 - 1pm - 9pm
May 8 & 9 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (937) 492 - 6588
(937) 773 - 6603

May 8 & 9 - CANADA

AVS of Central Alberta Show/Sale
Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
Show: May 8 - 4:30pm - 9pm
Sale: May 9 - 9:30am - 6pm
Info: Margaret Gratto (403) 346 - 2232

May 8 & 9 - KANSAS

Bright Petals AVC Annual Display/Sale
Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th St.
Great Bend, KS
May 8 - 8am - 6pm
May 9 - 9am - 5pm
Info: (316) 285 - 6478
(316) 793 - 6875

May 8 & 9 - OHIO

Parma town AVS 38th Annual Show/Sale
Parma town Mall, 7899 W. Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH
May 8 - 12:30 - 9pm
May 9 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 485 - 3546

May 8 & 9 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Mother's Day Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall, 2950 E. Texas, Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm (or until sold out)
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

May 8 & 9 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC 44th Annual Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, Maryland
May 8 - 1pm - 9pm
May 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Janet Haag (410) 377 - 8753

May 8 & 9 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Mother's Day Sale
Carolina East Mall, Greenville, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

May 8 & 9 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale
Memphis Botanical Garden, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Geneva Stagg (901) 757 - 1136

May 9 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Spring Sale
Southroads Mall, 1001 Ft. Crook Rd.
Bellevue, NE
Mall Hours
Info: Perry Robinson (402) 280 - 2882
Patty Burkey (402) 289 - 3328

May 9 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomer AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olson (707) 836 - 0910

May 9 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale
Padre Staples Mall, 5488 South Padre Island Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX
Hours: 10am - 5:30pm
Info: Majorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

May 9 & 10 - GEORGIA

AVC of Greater Atlanta Mother's Day Mini Show/Sale
North Dekalb Mall
Lawrenceville Hwy. & North Druid Hills Rd.
Decatur, GA
Mall Hours
Info: Kathy Spissman (770) 939 - 5289

May 9 & 10 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montréal Annual Show/Sale
Pointe Claire Curling Club, Cartier/Lanthier
Pointe Claire, Que., Canada
May 9 1pm - 5pm
May 10 - noon - 4pm
Info: (514) 695 - 5149

May 9 & 10 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina
Lower Level - Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA
May 10 - 10am - 8pm
May 11 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Cindy Cartwright (626) 969 - 1431

May 15 - 17 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Northtown Mall
Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE, Blaine, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

May 16 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall
Rt. 541, Burlington, NJ
Sale: 10am - 9pm
Show: 1pm - 9pm
Info: Laurel Brown (609) 877 - 8696

May 16 & 17 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester 49th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, NY
May 16 - 2pm - 6pm
May 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384
or email IrwinWag@aol.com

May 24 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Annual Judged Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
at Leslie, North York, Ontario, Canada
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Hamilton (416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm



AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter
AVSA Technology Committee

Thank you for your patience as we have converted your membership information from the old computer system into the new one. We have not seen any major problems, but there have been some little things like losing the prefix (Mrs.) from some of the names as they were converted. We are in the process of restoring the prefixes and will address it more aggressively after the convention registration process is completed.

Almost half of you have seen the new membership renewal notice. Many of you have provided your phone number and e-mail address with your renewal which the system can now store. The new system has streamlined the renewal process which saves a lot of work by the staff and has permitted a savings in the postage rate we must pay. You also receive the notice more quickly. When we started, more than 800 of your addresses did not meet postal regulations. That number is now down to 100. If you get a request from the office for confirmation of your address, check one of your utility bills and give us the address as they show it. Include all 9 digits of your zip code. The post office no longer likes addresses specifying rural routes (e.g. RR Box). The preferred address now refers to highway and road designations which are also usable by emergency vehicles to locate your home. If you live in a small community your letter carrier probably knows where to deliver your mail but it costs AVSA extra postage to send

your magazine or membership renewal to a RR Box address.

If you have Internet access you have probably seen the new web site for AVSA. A lot of work has gone into compiling the information and organizing it to provide you and hopefully potential members of AVSA information that will benefit you and bring you enjoyment. It will take an ongoing effort to maintain the data so that it is accurate and current. If you are a commercial member and have not yet provided information about your business to be listed on the AVSA web site you may still return the questionnaire that was mailed to you or you may e-mail the appropriate information to Ed Holst at crviolet@mta.nfi.net. If you are an officer of an affiliate and would like more information shown about your organization you may e-mail Bev Promersberger at promers@juno.com. If you would like to post your own activities on the calendar of events, send an e-mail to webmaster@avsa.org to be assigned a login and password that will allow you to add your activities to the calendar.

To ensure that your information appears correctly in the AVM, you must still follow the current procedure and submit to the Editor by the deadlines listed in the front of the magazine.

If you have suggestions about information that would be helpful to be presented on the web site, feel free to send an e-mail to the Web Master and it will be reviewed by the Internet Committee for possible inclusion as enhancements are made to the site.

Baking Soil

Preheat the oven to 180°. Place the pan of soil in the center of the oven until a thermometer indicates that the soil in the pan has reached 180°.

To get rid of :

nematodes
most bacteria/fungi
soil insects
most plant viruses
weed seeds

Bake soil for 30 minutes at:

120°
150°
160°
160°
175°

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

MIGHTY MINIS

Over the past few years we have seen an almost explosive increase in the popularity of miniature African violets. Winning major awards in local, regional and national shows, these mighty minis are the result of talented hybridizers who have given us excellent symmetry and heavy blooming habits with colorful, distinctive blossoms.

Miniature African violets have been around for many years. Originally referred to as "tea-cup violets" they were first considered a novelty and not taken seriously because of their tendency to sucker. In this day of specialization, a few hybridizers and commercial growers have focused on improving the little ones.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to **Jean Stokes**, one of these specialists who grows and sells miniatures under the name of **Mighty Minis in Sacramento, California**.

Jeannie moved to Oroville, California where she grew standard size African violets. While there, she met another grower who gave her a single, white-blooming miniature. The blooms fell easily from the plant, but Jeannie liked the smaller, faster growing and easy to groom plant.

In 1980, when she moved to Sacramento, her collection was almost exclusively minis. Shortly thereafter, she began to sell locally. By 1982 Jeannie was ready to sell by mail and began advertising in the African Violet Magazine.

Her miniatures are grown in a building near the rear of her home in a residential neighborhood. The building is somewhat smaller than similar buildings used by other growers, but then, minis need a lot less space.

Packed into every square foot of space are some 400 varieties from well-known and not so well-known hybridizers. When asked who her favorite hybridizer is, Jeannie spoke without hesitation: "Rob." She believes Ralph (Rob) Robinson's introductions are the best as to high bloom count, attractive blossoms and ease in growing.

Following Rob in popularity are those cultivars by Hortense Pittman and Sidney Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

Jeannie doesn't show her plants competitively lest she be considered as having an unfair advantage as a commercial grower. However, she loves to enter designs in her local shows. At the recent national AVSA convention held in Sacramento, Jeannie worked in the information booth, in addition to selling leaves in the sales room.

Insects are not a problem for this grower since she learned of a liquid systemic that is highly effective. The main drawback is the \$99.00 per gallon cost. If you have a question about this highly touted insecticide, please contact Jeannie directly.

The minis are grown in Volkmann's soil that Jeannie sterilizes by heat before use.

After retiring about two years ago from a position as bankruptcy trustee in a bank, and with no hobbies, Jeannie is now able to devote more time to her miniatures.

Before leaving the bank, her fellow employees laughed at her for wanting to grow and sell African violets on a commercial level. Now some of them come by to visit and pick up a mini or two.

Hybridizing appeals to Jeannie, and a few of them are now available from her list. She plans to continue this side of growing African violets in the future. Information about ordering her list is available in her ad in this magazine.

As I travel across this great, land I am constantly reminded of the power and influence of the individual. Here at Mighty Minis is a woman who has raised four children, had a career in business, and yet continues to keep an optimistic, indefatigable eye toward the future. Thank you, Jeannie Stokes.

My wife and I are planning our trips for the balance of 1998, which will include visits to other AVSA commercial members. I hope your favorite will be among them.



Jean Stokes

NATURAL GARDENS

by Ruth Goeke • Brenham, TX

Some time ago, I attended a workshop Bill Foster did on natural gardens. I took a few notes with the intention of writing an article for the newsletter, but as usual, time went by and I never got around to writing the article. It wasn't that I didn't need articles for our newsletter, but writing for me usually takes more time than I have to spare at that particular moment. Since this is the last newsletter for me to do, I thought I should see if I could still decipher my notes.

Bill Foster (AVSA First Vice President) is very well known for his award winning designs and when he speaks about design exhibits, he always makes it appear to be so easy and uncomplicated to do. I'm sure that talent and a good imagination (I have neither) play a big part in constructing these winning designs.

A natural garden is one of the types of Container Gardens in our shows. Container gardens are miniature scenes in which one or more blooming African violet plants, along with other plants, are actually planted and growing in the container.

Natural materials must be used for natural gardens. Examples of natural materials would be sea shells, rocks, lava rocks, logs, or driftwood. An ornamental gourd could even be used if the overall gourd fits the size. Anything natural can be used. Two separate pieces can even be put together if you can make it look natural. There is no rule that says you cannot paint your planting container, but most are left in their natural state and color.

There can be one or more planting pockets in the container. Container gardens should be constructed a month before the show.

Always check the schedule for size limits. Relation to container is worth 10 points and consideration must be given to the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the container. The container should not dominate the plant material in size, color, or texture.

After assembling a natural garden, it can be maintained if misted or sprayed often, as most planting pockets are rather shallow. Lava rocks absorb moisture so placing the planted lava rock in a tray under your lights is helpful.

Sphagnum moss holds moisture well. Soak sphagnum moss for several days. Wrap the sphagnum moss around the roots of the plants. Using wet sphagnum moss keeps

your work area, table, container and plants cleaner than using soil. When you use it to wrap the roots of your plants, don't have the sphagnum moss sopping wet, just moist. A lot of times you have to prune the roots. When traveling, you can pack sphagnum moss in a Cool Whip carton.

Many types of plants can be used. Some of the more common ones are norfolk pine, miniature bonsai trees, mini begonias, miniature sinningias, miniature ferns, baby tears, and miniature ficus. Aralias are a good standby if you cannot find a bonsai tree. They root readily and you can cut off the stem and it will send up side shoots and make a nice tree. You can also take cuttings that root easily and root some when preparing a month or two before the show. (Or you can do what I do.... frantically visit every nursery within a 100 mile radius looking for suitable plants!!) Any tropical plants can be used, but of course, no succulents.

Fire ferns are lovely but difficult to use in color schemes. Using background plants with a lot of color may take away from your African violet. Nonblooming micro miniature African violets make nice little "bushes", as long as you have one or more blooming violets.

Green moss makes a good ground cover (and looking for moss can be an exciting adventure. Jane Rexilius and I usually have "moss alerts" when we are going to a show.) You can look under tables in greenhouses or nurseries for moss growing in moist conditions. Usually the best moss is found in the wintertime. Sometimes you can take moss that is already brown and hold it under cold water and place in a clear plastic shoe box and it may "green up". Bill says this moss will keep for several months under cool conditions. Mine never seems to survive for very long.

I've tried several times to "grow" moss but haven't had luck for any length of time. I read a note in one of my gardening books that said if you spread buttermilk on rocks or bricks and then place moss on it and keep the area damp that moss will grow. I haven't tried that yet but it is on my list of things to do. There is also a live sheetmoss that you can buy and sometimes it has a green tint to it. This is permissible to use and often if you soak it in water, it will turn a shade of green.

Any plant material used in a natural garden must be used to growing in an open environment because it will go

down fast because of the shallow planting pockets. You can chip out the planting hole if it is not large enough. Place a plastic tent over your entire garden if you will be away from home for a few days. Your natural garden can also be kept in natural light. Regardless of where you place your garden, constant moisture is necessary to keep it indefinitely. However, if your container is a piece of log or wood, the wood will deteriorate over a period of time with it being exposed to constant moisture.

The concepts of good design should be followed. The landscape plan counts for 40 points and the scene is the landscape plan. Your landscape design should be in a straight line with no gradation. Your plants and accessories are arranged to create a landscape in miniature. This can be either a portion of a broader scene or suggestion of meadows, woods, valleys, cliffs, gardens, etc. You can make your planting fit any show theme and you can give a hint on the card you write. The effect should be of an established planting and points should be deducted if exhibit appears to be newly planted.

The violet(s) used in your planting is not judged on its symmetry or on a scale of points. Trailers do not need to have three crowns to be used in a container garden. The African violet in your container garden does not need to be the focal point as it does in plant arrangements, but the violet should be well grown with a reasonable amount of

bloom and be free of pests and disease. Cultural perfection counts for 10 points, and condition of materials counts for 20 points. All plants should be properly groomed and the container and accessories should be clean.

The combination of materials should be harmonious and there should be contrast of texture, size, color, and height to add interest. Suitability of materials counts for 20 points and plants used should be those that are compatible when grown in the same cultural environment.

Normally, use only one blooming African violet. If you use two or three, be sure to use the same variety. If you use more than one, be very careful with coordinating colors. The size of all plants should be in reasonable proportion and scale to each other. The exhibitor does not have to grow the plants used in container gardens.

Accessories should be appropriate to the class title, type of planting and reasonably scaled to the size of the container. Bill suggests that unless you need an accessory to depict the theme, don't use one. If you do, use a small one and hide it.

Plexiglass or a sheet of plastic can be used to protect the table top in the show but natural gardens cannot have a base.

*Reprinted with permission from the
Lone Star AV Council Newsletter, Texas*

Guidelines for Judges

1. Do not use age as the determinate of experience. Experience is acquired by studying, keeping current, and growing a wide range of African violets. Judges who do not maintain their currency by studying and growing the newer varieties of African violets should not accept judging invitations.
2. Giving away ribbons is worse than withholding ribbons; the practice does not encourage better growing nor does it uphold the principles of AVSA. It also discourages growers and exhibitors who work hard on their plants to see poorly grown specimens given the same recognition as their plants.
3. It is probably true that judges who judge "by-the-book" are not asked to judge as frequently as the more lenient, club pleaser judges — but, in the long run, they are more respected.
4. Don't give an entry a ribbon just because it is in the show. Remember, some entries are permitted either because the Entries Committee lacked the courage to disqualify, or the entries were added at the last minute to fill space.
5. Answer invitations to judge promptly. Accept only when qualified.
6. Study the schedule carefully *before* arriving to judge.
7. Arrive at show at least 15 minutes *before* the appointed time.
8. Before judging, take time for a quick walk-through of the entire show; however, do not finalize opinion until you take a close look at entries when judging.
9. Be tolerant when assessing the work of novices or entries in the first show of a new club; however, don't be over-tolerant to the point of awarding ribbons to clearly inferior plants.
10. Be cognizant of a poor growing season and unusual weather conditions. Also, be cognizant of the environmental changes from home to show room, and their effect on plants.
11. Special awards should not be awarded just because they are available. They should be given only for marked superiority.

by Bob L. Green • Rockledge, FL

12. Look for overall appearance, beauty, and condition (ABCs); don't strain at technicalities.
13. Stay at least three feet back from arrangements. Don't touch, pry at, or poke at arrangements. Look for harmony and balance, and schedule interpretation. Remember, the arrangement should carry your eyes smoothly from point A to point B, and the African violets or blossoms should be an integral part of the flow. Points should only be deducted for mechanics when they clearly detract from the total arrangement.
14. Respect entries; don't make flippant or caustic remarks.
15. Don't let personal prejudices affect your judging; always maintain objectivity.
16. Be tolerant of new judges; respect their views; let them participate in decisions; make them feel like part of the team. Do not relegate new judges to low man on the totem pole.
17. Take time to sign blue ribbons and blue ribbon entry cards in a Standard Show.
18. Write discreet and tactful comments on entry cards, when time permits, and sign your name. Do not delegate this to a clerk.
19. Do not write criticisms on blue ribbon entry cards. If the entry deserves criticism, then it doesn't deserve a blue.
20. When you write the criticism, start with a compliment. Help the exhibitor by positive rather than negative suggestions. A good exhibitor wants to know where points were lost.
21. Always remember, as judges, our main responsibility is to educate and perpetuate better culture.
22. After judging, personally thank clerks for their help.
23. Write a thank-you note to Chairman of Judges for having you judge, within ten days of assignment.

*Reprinted with permission from "The Florida Connection",
publication of the AV Council of FL*

Growing Large Show Plants

From a talk given by Marie Burns
at the 1997 Dixie African Violet Society Convention

Whenever I am introduced to someone new in the violet world, I am asked, "How do you get your plants so large?" and "Do you put wax on your leaves?" To answer those and other questions, I'll tell you how I grow African violets.

1. The most important step is to pick plants that are bred to be large growers - 18" to 24".
2. Choose plants with natural symmetry. Some plants naturally grow in a good shape.
3. Be sure the variety has adequate blossoms and good blossom size.
4. Pick color combinations that are attention grabbing, with eye appeal, such as dark foliage and bright-colored blooms.
5. Be sure the blossoms are true to the hybridizer's description in the *Master Variety List*.
6. Begin disbudding as soon as you have checked the above point. I leave a 1/4" stub and disbud for about a year - until eight to nine weeks before a show. This forces the growth energy into making roots and leaves.
7. Remember, some plants just won't like you. Give or throw those away.
8. My plants are started in Dixie Cups, then moved up in six to eight weeks to a 3" pot, then moved up in six to eight weeks to a 4" pot, then to a 5" pot as needed.
9. Remember, some plants just don't tolerate disbudding. When you find a variety that hates to be disbudded, discard it.
10. Limit the number of plants you grow. When I was growing plants more actively, I limited myself to ten plants and most of the time, all ten of those plants would make it to the show.

I find that pH has a lot to do with determining the size of a plant, with 6.4 to 6.5 seeming to be ideal for my method of growing. I find if the pH is closer to 7, the plant will have smaller leaves. I use Superthrive, at the rate of one drop to one gallon of water, faithfully, when I give the plants water. The dehydrated cow manure in my soil mixture is what gives the sheen to the foliage and also makes for larger plants, using one cup to eight large coffee cans of soil. Be sure to mix the soil well, and pasteurize it, but do not sterilize it or you will kill the microorganisms that make the plant grow.

Your soil must be light and airy and lightly dampened.

The way you pot and repot can change the diameter of your plants. Potting too tightly will make smaller leaves and plants. There needs to be a lot of air space in the soil to get large plants. When I pot my plants, I put them down a little lower in the pot than most people do, sort of using the edges of the pot to support the leaves. Show plants are given my best growing area. Everyone has a place where their plants will do best.

When the plant is freshly repotted, set the pot into a dish that contains about 1" of water, for three to four hours, or even as long as overnight to "set the air spaces." I prefer not to top water as it compacts the soil and eliminates the air spaces that are so important for growing a large plant. I use plain water with no fertilizer for the first two weeks after repotting, using only Superthrive then. Since my soil mixture is rich, when I do use fertilizer, I only use 1/8 teaspoonful to a gallon of water. I like Miller's 20-20-20 fertilizer most of the year but if it isn't available for you, use a water soluble fertilizer such as Miracle Gro 15-30-15 or Peters.

Repot, repot, repot every three months and sometimes sooner, depending on the speed of growth for each individual plant. If you don't repot frequently, you will end up with a smaller row of leaves that show when you missed doing it. With all of the energy going into leaves and roots, the plants have to have room to grow. Sometimes, really large plants go into pots as large as seven inches in diameter. My final repotting is done three months prior to a show to let roots fill the pot, and to make more bloom. If a plant needs to go into a larger pot and it is closer than three months until a show, wait until the blossom buds are showing — as many buds as you think the plant needs. I do not let my plants dry out before I repot them.

I remove lower leaves constantly, before they age or begin to hang down, keeping the plants at three or four rows of leaves. Plants are allowed to grow more leaves ten to twelve weeks before show. This saves you from having to do the removal at the last minute.

Give your plants plenty of room. Plants tend to fill the space available! Once plants are in 5" pots, there are only two plants on a shelf. Leaf supports are used at all stages of growth from a 3" pot on up. Leaf supports seem to protect the plants by keeping me from injuring the leaves.

Be sure to turn your plants once a week, even if they are in the center of the light stand. This makes the foliage

more symmetrical and the blooms will be evenly distributed.

Rearrange the foliage as needed. If it refuses to cooperate, get rid of the plant. You can use Saran Wrap to help move leaves, leaving it on for two to three days. Light gets through the plastic, it is soft and gentle and helps to convince the foliage to go where you want it to go. Clean leaves are needed to give the plants the light they need. You can brush them or even wash them if it is necessary, but never let water sit in the center of the plant. When bloom stalks appear, guide them through the foliage as soon as they appear to give even blossom distribution. If you are going to bathe your plants, do it before the blossoms are open.

Wipe your fluorescent tubes clean, often. They seem to attract and hold dust. One Cool White tube and one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube in each fixture works best for me, to bring the plants to maturity faster. Giving plants less light gives larger leaves. I use ten hours of lighting time for the first three to four months of a plant's growth, then move to eleven hours, and never more than twelve hours. Another thing to remember regarding light is to change your fluorescent tubes before they need it.

As to humidity, that depends on your individual growing location. I have to use a humidifier upstairs and a dehumidifier downstairs. I grow my plants on wicking on trays which does put extra humidity into the air. I try for 60 to 65% humidity for optimum growth. I do not mist my plants. It just isn't needed for my plant growing area. Foliar feeding is a good aid for larger foliage. It helps to give the plants a boost but you can grow large plants without it. To foliar feed, you have to be dedicated and persistent or you

do more harm than good. Plants use 90% of the sprayed-on food, and once this program is started, you must stay with it until you are ready to let the plants bloom. If you want to foliar feed, a small pressure mister is the easiest way to do it, using 1/8 teaspoonful of fertilizer to one gallon of hot water, twice a week. Hot water is important for misting or foliar feeding because it cools rapidly as it is sprayed into the air. Foliar feed when the temperature is rising and mist very lightly. Do not let water collect at the edges of the leaves. For beginners, I recommend liquid seaweed or fish emulsion. Do not use Superthrive for foliar feeding.

When I quit disbudding, I change to a bloom booster fertilizer that has a very high middle number. You can foliar feed your variegated foliage plants if you want to, but take a tissue and cover the white center leaves of the plant so the spraying mist will only get on the larger outside leaves. Some plants seem to have a tendency to haloing. If this problem occurs, break up a fish stick and put it into the sides of the pot. This will give an extra nitrogen boost to the plant.

One last tip, you can use carpet padding in the bottoms of the boxes you use to transport your plants to show. This stops the plants from "walking" as you drive. Add a few of my suggestions to your growing system and be prepared to answer the question, "How do you get your plants so large?"

*Reprinted with permission from
"The Florida Connection", AV Council of Florida*

Show Manners

by Pauline Bartholomew

Competition brings out the worst in some people and the best in others. Make sure you place yourself in the latter category. You will have much more fun exhibiting if you observe two simple rules of good show manners.

First, always do your share of the work. New growers may not be aware of how many months of preparation go into putting on a judged show. To arrive at the last minute, enter your plants, return to pick them up (plus possible awards), and go home will not win friends and influence people. The show chairman can always find a job for even the most inexperienced club member. Ask.

Second, be delighted if you win, but also be a good loser. Even though you may pride yourself on being a good sport, there may come a time when you are

from Growing To Show

tempted to challenge a judging decision you believe to be unfair. Should that day come, bite your tongue! Creating a big stir puts you in an unflattering light and probably won't change a thing. (The decision of the judges is final.) As an exhibitor, you can't know of all the factors that went into making a decision. For the most part, judges are very conscientious and make every effort to be fair. Shrug off the defeat and be the first to congratulate the winners.

And finally, keep in mind that everyone is under pressure: the show committee, the judges, and the exhibitors. Put all of your competitive drive into the growing of plants. After they are entered in a show relax, have fun, and consider any awards you win as a bonus for an exciting experience.



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10,

also CHIMERAS. Latest releases from MARIE BURNS, DATES, BARBARA ELKIN, BILL FOSTER, LYONS, D. HARRINGTON, KENT STORK, WRANGLERS and much more.

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00. Gifts, cards, and notes available.

NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

email violets@cape.com - Web page www.cape.com/~violets

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type
12-36-14	African Violet Special
5-50-17	Variegated Special
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special
20-20-20	General Purpose
15-30-15	House Plant Special
Dolomite Limestone	
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse
	No. 6 Medium
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse
Perlite	Coarse
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss	

Size / Price	8 oz.
4 oz.	8 oz.
\$1.60	\$3.00
1.60	3.00
4 oz.	12 oz.
1.25	3.00
4 oz.	16 oz.
1.25	3.00
1.25	3.00
	2 lbs./\$1.75
20 oz.	40 oz.
1.75	3.25
4 qts.	16 qts.
1.75	5.00
1.75	5.00
432 cu. inches	\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

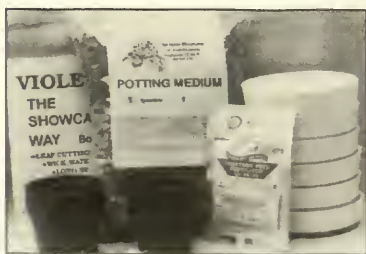
15 ml - \$21.50



VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$28.50 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$15.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$28 per dozen plants. *Minis, trailers, and variegated foliage types available upon request. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds. of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A \$24.50 value for **only \$15.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



Telephone (303) 761-1770 • FAX (303) 762-1808

The Violet Showcase

3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80110

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 5 (Mountain Time) closed Sunday & Tuesday

Established 1969



SPRINGTIME



THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME TO SELECT THE PLANTS YOU WANT TO ENTER IN NEXT YEARS SHOW

Listed below are some of the plants that we carry in our catalog.

Select from these plants or send \$1.00 and we will send you our descriptive catalog.

DEAN'S - Lady Bug, Bashful, Freckles, Lucienne, Ruby, Ivory Lace, Rosalie, Brandywine.

ROB'S - Gizmo, Smarty Pants, Silly Sally, Twinkle Blue, Club Soda, Whoa Nellie.

PITTMAN - Honey Berry, Gleeful Elf, Cool Blue, Peppy Pink, Planet Kid, Teen Thunder.

NESS - Winter Lace, Pixie Grin, Mystique. **Von's** - Marissa, Soft Touch, Little Lady.

SORANO'S - Ice Pirates, Lexie's Party Dress, Golden Dawn, Adirondack Moon.

STANDARDS

CROTEAU'S - Astral, Coeur Corail, Coraline, Guest, Italian Spice, Peace Maker.

NESS Blue Wave, China Blue, **PITTMAN'S** Alamo Charmer, Cotton, Rogue, Hero.

STORK'S Baritone, Shattered Glass, Velvet Brocade, **DECELLES** Celebration, Defi.

BURNS Winter Song, **Suncoast** Blue Cranberry, **ACA's** Coral Beauty.

TRAILERS

My Smokey Trail, Kissaway Tr., Rambling Lassie, Tiger Tr., Twice Pink, White Magic Tr., Shiawasee Tr., Sky Diver, First Robin, Cirelda, Brazos Belle, Snowy Tr., Ellie Gardner, Deer Tr., Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Gundaroo, Santa Fe Tr. and more.

PLANT PRICES - \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 per order. Shipping is \$7.00 for the first 6 plants, over that add 40 cents per plant.

YOU MAY WANT TO ORDER OUR LEAF SPECIAL

SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 - \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases-24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH BOTH PLANTS AND LEAF ORDERS YOU WILL RECEIVE A PHONE CALL GIVING YOU THE EXACT DATE OF SHIPMENT.

Make check payable to Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX. 78221
Telephone number 210-923-1093

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO! STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCIAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors
growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm

1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

Florida Registration number: 47219602



Acree Creations

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pots
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768



Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

The 1998 Releases from
Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses
(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1998 Catalog
Available Feb. 15th

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738

Phone: 903-595-5137
Fax: 903-593-7956

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). Mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label below. Orders will be submitted every time 30 orders are acquired.



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)
Sample magazine \$3.50
Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Bluebird Greenhouses

Apex, NC
At the Peak of Violetry



Send \$1 for catalog. Open 9-12 weekdays.

4821 Jessie Drive
Apex North Carolina 27502

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie@ibm.net
<http://RTPnet.org/~avsa/bbhome.htm>

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



JIM WILDMAN

133 Rosemont Drive
Syracuse, NY 13205

Standards, Minis, Trailers - express
shipping available year round for
cold climates after Oct. 1 - before
April 30th at extra charge.

CATALOG \$1.00 - Telephone - 315-492-2562
African violet leaves & supplies

SPECIALS

12 Leaves, my choice - \$15.50 postage paid
24 Leaves, my choice - \$27.00 postage paid
50 Leaves, my choice - \$52.00 postage paid

Linda's Heavenly Accents

P.O. Box 690
Cordova, NC 28330-0690
(910) 895-8200
stalion@infoave.net



Let us **Accent** your collection!
1998 releases from, Robs Mini-o-lets,
Hortense Pittman, Lyons, Kent Stork and over
1000 standard and large favorites!
Over 400 minis and semiminis
New List \$1.00 refundable with order.

Spring Special

**25 Fresh Cut Leaves all different,
labeled, \$12.50 p.p.**
50 including some new, \$22.50 p.p.
"our choice of varieties, your choice of types."
Club Orders Welcome
Join our Happy Customers.

Over 30 varieties

EPISCIAS ONLY

send for a free price list
512-467-7553

6 starter plants my choice
\$15.00 + \$5.00 postage & packing

Cuttings available

Toni's Home Nursery
1112 Taulbee Lane
Austin, Texas 78757



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers,
Baby Begonias, and various
gesneriads list available,
January 1998, \$2.00,
refundable with 1st order



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your
African violet collection requiring the
same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes
and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags
year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information
or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



Pat's Pets

BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	4.95	17.95
10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	7.95	24.95
10 Species	7.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	7.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	7.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Columnea	7.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	7.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com



African violets know no borders, so why not
become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive *Chatter*, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African
violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and
forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00

Check payable to Genelle Armstrong

1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00

Evergreen Violets

P. O. Box 49534

Blaine, MN 55449



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998!

Available now for shipping only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, tightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

Plus 2 Spectacular New Chimeras!

ROB'S LUCKY PENNY. Very rare, one-of-a-kind variegated foliage! Sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eye, over tiny, pointed fol. w/very unusual variegation - like leaves of euonymus w/very broad, irregular white margin; variegation is totally insensitive to heat; mini (\$10 - limited supply)

ROB'S THINGAMAJIG. Tremendous! A must-have, and sure to be a favorite; pink sdbls. /w/prominent blue pinwheel stripes; excellent, dark var. foliage; excellent mini showplant (\$10)

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including "Rob's Sarsparilla" best new intro at '97 AVSA

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S MISSY. A truly lovely plant; large fringed lt. lavender w/cream throat; great grower and bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOONLIT SKY. White w/dark blue throat and lower lobes edged in white; great symmetrical foliage; profuse

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S STARDUST. Extremely unusual! Large purple-black blooms w/distinctive gold 'glitter' salted on lower lobes; must see to believe; very different.

BRISTOL'S SUZY QUE. Perhaps my favorite; never-ending masses of fully dbl. white blooms w/med. lilac-blue lower lobes edged in white held in bouquet above foliage; fantastic

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus dozens of other favorites

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

Our Customers say it best...

In a recent letter from Mrs. Ramona Donnell, Awards Chairman for the Missouri Valley AVC she said,

"... I used your fertilizer exclusively on the 7 plants that I took to show and I received 7 Blue Ribbons, 6 Best in Class and 1 Judges Special Award. I also won best other gesneriad, Best Mini and 2nd Best Mini in show. After the awards were announced, everyone was most interested in how I had used Dyna-Gro.

In the past I have grown plants that won blue ribbons but not the quality of these plants.

...I can say with some conviction that you have gained some converts."

DYNA-GRO
THE NUTRITION SOLUTIONTM

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")

plus the full
story of
TEXAS-STYLE
potting method

GROWING
TO SHOW



HOW TO GROW PRIZE-WINNING
AFRICAN VIOLETS
BY PAULINE BARTHOLOMEW

A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

AV Enterprises Press
P.O. Box 6778-A
Oxnard, CA 93030

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to
The Gloxinian magazine (six issues) plus a
copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:
AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA



Air Express 5 pack: \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive 5 Little Jewels[®] violets direct from Holtkamp.
The Mini-WellTM reservoirs are included along with
fertilizer. These minis are easy to grow!

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



NURSERY CO., INC.
(ESTABLISHED 1843)

1-800-446-7723

**Teas Catalog
FREE to AVSA**

Light tubes, fertilizers, violet pots
including the Dandy Pot[®] plus
orchids, hibiscus, plumerias,
bromeliads, and supplies.



Alannah's African Violets

"Mail order specialists for award-winning African Violets"

- * Well established starter plants & fresh cut leaves.
- * We use organic growing medium & fertilizers
- * We ship throughout Canada, the United States & world wide.
- * Our orders are government inspected for your requirements and are expertly packed.

We also offer over 400 varieties of specialty Geraniums.

"Thank you to all our customers who have made our business a success! We look forward to serving you in 1998"
Alannah Regan

Phone: (250) 442-2552 Fax: (250) 442-0254

CATALOGUE ONLY 2.00

RR 1, Site 640,
Grand Forks, B.C.
Canada V0H 1H0

Box 2
Danville WA.
USA, 99121



Now you can view the catalogue online and/or email us at alannahs.com

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality hybrids since 1954



Visit our web site at
www.lyndonlyon.com

Our 1998 COLOR CATALOG
introducing our newest creations

featuring
Monthly specials!

IS NOW READY
FOR MAILING

To receive your copy, please send
\$3.00 U.S./\$5.00 International

African Violets • Gesneriads • Orchids • Exotic Houseplants • Hanging Baskets

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

African Violets
Columneas Streptocarpus
Aeschynanthus Sinningias
Codonanthus Kohlerias
Episcias and more!



AFRICAN VIOLET SELF-WATERING POTS

DESIGNED BY MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

15 UNIQUE DESIGNS, 3 INDIVIDUAL SIZES, SOUTHWESTERN, COUNTRY, AND CREATIVE STYLES, HANDCRAFTED AND HANDPAINTED MADE IN USA

CATALOG \$2 (REFUNDABLE WITH ORDERS OF \$25.00)
OR VISIT US ON THE WWW AT <http://www.13.pair.com/mudhole>

"Now Available At Participating Home Depot Stores"

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

870 RESEARCH DRIVE, #5 PHONE (888) 549-8149
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262 FAX (800) 549-3837
VISA, MC, AMEX ACCEPTED



Susan's Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants
Catalog \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist 2511 N. Desert Ave.
(520) 326-3057 Tucson, AZ 85712



PAT'S PATCH

Home of "Buckeye Beauties". Specializing in variegated standards and many "Hard to Find" varieties from "hobby" hybridizers who grow for show.

Also for 1998 - 40 exciting imports from Australia. Leaves only.
List - \$1.25 cash or stamps only, please.

P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

Violet Rainbow II - Melody Hartman

Plans and leaves available

Send \$1.00 for catalog

Standards, Minis and Trailers

Shipping May to October

20 leaves, my choice, for \$20+ship

715 Kames Hill Road

Columbia, PA 17512

717-684-2169

Garden Check ✓

High accuracy, electronic, pH readings

Whether confirming your current reading or checking for the first time, maximum growth is only possible at optimal pH!

\$5.00 total for the first one or two samples and

\$3.00 for each additional sample more than two.

Send no more than two ounces per sample to:

Garden Check • 218 Chesterfield Rd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15213 • (412) 687-2830



episcias

Our
First
Year

A & W

VIOLETS
Leaves and
Starter Plants

violets

Free
Price
List

8704 E. 92nd Pl. Kansas City, Mo. 64138



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687



Travis Violets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



New & older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1998 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$30 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets AD EXPIRES 09/30/98

Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ Mem. # _____ Date _____

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- ☐ Individual Membership USA (\$18.00)
☐ Associate Member USA (\$10.00-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
☐ International Membership (\$20.50)
☐ International Associate (\$11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
☐ Commercial USA (\$30.00)
☐ Commercial International (\$33.75)
☐ Affiliated Chapter USA (\$20.00)
☐ Affiliated Chapter International (\$22.50)
☐ Affiliated State, Regional and Council (\$20.00)
☐ Life Member (\$275.00)
☐ Library (\$18.00)
☐ International Life (\$325.00)

(Please type or print)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal Mem. # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc. INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in US \$ with a draft or check on a USA bank. International postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

VISA / MC accepted Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

VIOLETS ETC.

Bonnie Schmidkofer
813-468-9457

1011 Wood Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

African Violet Leaves
Gesneriad Cuttings
Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.

Mail Order Only

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Starter plants will be \$2.25 ea. Leaves \$1.25 ea.,
Yellow Violets Leaves \$1.50, Plants \$4.00. List \$1.
I expect this to be my last year to ship. Also, shipping season will
be short so please order early. U.S. Ship Only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS
15980 W. Warden Road, Omaha, Arkansas 72662



OVER 800 VARIETIES

List, \$1.50. Refundable

SHIPPING NOW!

LEAVES AND SOIL MIX ONLY

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

*Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 31 E. 12th Street, Suite 2D •
New York, NY 10003*

HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards
Lots of Oldies Plus New Varieties
Fresh Cut Leaves - Starter Plants
State Inspected and Certified
Shipping United States Only*

1998 List \$1.50 payable to:
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1998
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

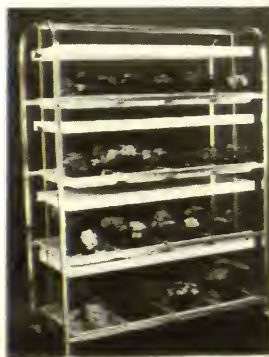
CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Self-Watering

27 unique designs available • Artfully Handpainted
Catalog \$1 Refundable • All pots crafted in USA

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683



G4-SD2 \$549.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

**GARDENING
SUPPLIES**

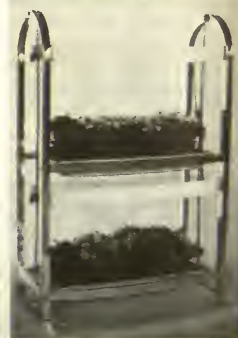
FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE 32 PAGE CATALOG



G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D

NEW LOWER PRICES!

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5" Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6" Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5" Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8" Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10" Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz/\$1.75	6 oz/\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz/\$3.00	12 oz/\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz/\$3.75	2 oz/\$4.75	4 oz/\$7.75

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00

DYNA GRO FERTILIZER

Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75

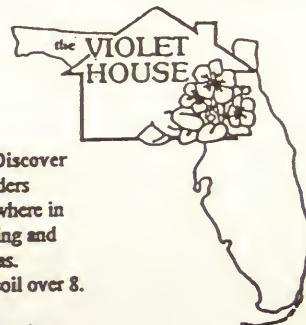
INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz/\$2.00	2 oz/\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Call 1-800-8466 To Order

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

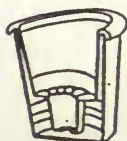


- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

1998 Shipping Season At Tinari's Is Now In Full Swing.

* Time To Order For Choice Cultivars

* Sturdy Stock Ready To Ship

* Prompt Service

\$3.95 Each

Bianca
Designer Dress
Fantasy Cameo
Fantasy Freckles
Fantasy Lace
Halo's Aglitter
Hot Spot
Luminescence
Phosphorescence
Spring Coral
Sunrise Coral

Variegated

Alamo Sunshine
Blackberry Jam

Semiminiature

Irish Flirt

Trailers ... \$2.49

Crafty Farmer
Royal Blue Trailer
Sky Trailer
Sweetheart Trailer

Variegated ... \$2.95

Affection
Champagne Halo
Happy Halo
Nancy Reagan
Romance
Tommie Lou
Tradition

\$2.95 Each

Alamo Red
Angel's Reflection
Anniversary Tribute
Arapahoe
Aurora Fantasy
Blue Earth
Blue Parade
Candy Cane
Cherries 'N Cream
Chorale
Cristabel
Fantasy Forty
Fire Mountain
His Promise
Hot Pants
Lavender Sunrise
Lemon Whip
Mia
Midnight Twist
Mighty Fine
Pink Cameo
Pink Heaven
Plum De Creme
Rapid Transit
Red Robe
Renata
Rose Lisere
Ruffled Skies
Snowkist Haven
Tomahawk
Toreador
Viking Maiden
White Cameo

\$2.49 Each

Azure Blue
Bangle Blue
Billy Penn
Brandywine
Centennial Purple
Coral Glow
Coralette
Dazzler
Firebird
Grand Duchess
Hallmark Haven
Ingrid
Morning Thunder
Pink Hill
Pink Verona
White Disco
Wonderful

Mini & Semiminiature

Blue Ice
Little Baby Brian
Little Julie
Little Pro
Snuggles Innocence
Taffy

Indian Summer Series ... \$2.95

Little Blackfoot Girl
Little Cherokee Girl
Little Cheyenne Girl
Little Comanche Girl
Little Shoshone Girl
Little Sioux Girl

Send For 1998 Color Catalog ... \$1.00



Packing and Postal Costs: First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone	0-1-2.....	\$5.95 per shipment
Zone	3-4-5.....	\$6.95 per shipment
Zone	6-7-8-9.....	\$7.95 per shipment

CA and all customers West of MS are served best via UPS 2nd DAY AIR.
Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage stated for this service.

DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

Tinari
GREENHOUSES

Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144 • Fax (215) 947-2163

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1998

Volume 51

Number 4



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail promers@juno.com

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 955 Mission Hills Dr., New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have idea for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave. Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7202 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send address correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates - \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91717
RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violet" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August

Volume 51

Number 4

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

CONTENTS

JUL 09 1998

GARDEN LIBRARY

Correction.....	8
New Show Schedule Approver.....	8
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! - Bev Promersberger.....	9
A Helping Hand Into the Future - Bev Promersberger ..	10
Needed: Nominations For Hudson Memorial Award... ..	12
What a Lifesaver - Rose Marie Yeates.....	13
African Violet Jelly - Ed Hoefer.....	13
The Way Down South Club - Don Geiss.....	18
Basic Care and Culture of AVs - Rena Douglas.....	19
Soil Mealy Bugs - Barb Pershing.....	20
Signs of Trouble.....	20
Physan - One More Time - Dorothy Schroeder.....	21
Thrips - Barbara Goodsell.....	21
1998 AVSA Awards.....	27

FEATURES

What's New on the Web - Wayne Donaho.....	31
What Does it All Mean?.....	34
New Items Offered by AVSA.....	40
AVSA Order Form.....	44
Violets on Vacation - Barbara Goodsell.....	45
A Line on Design - Peggy Walsh.....	45
Some Experiences in Hybridizing With the Rosette Species - Dr. Jeff Smith.....	46
Appreciated by the Youngest - Penny Calvert.....	50
Disbudding - Marcia Lazarus.....	51
Attention Affiliates!.....	51
Planting by Moon Signs.....	52
People to People - Morgan Simmons.....	53
Tour Time - Jim Owens.....	54

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers.....	2
Officers & Staff.....	2
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells.....	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey.....	4
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork.....	6
Thinking Small - Pat Richards.....	14
Coming Events.....	15
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith.....	16
"...And the winners are..." - Mary Corondan.....	22
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens.....	26
Showcase (1).....	28
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky.....	30
Showcase (2).....	32

CONVENTION

1998 National Show Highlights.....	5
AVSA Auction Great Success - Pat Richards.....	17
The Eyes of Texas Are Upon Us - Linda Golubski.....	27
We Discovered California!.....	42

COVER

**Rob's Fuddy Duddy
Best In Show**

1998 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by:

Bev Promersberger
Hybridizer: R. Robinson
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

A & W Violets	56
Acree Creations	56
AGGS	63
American Orchid Society	63
AV Enterprises Press	60
AVS of Canada	64
AVSA Address Labels	64

B

Bayou Violets	64
Belisle's Violet House	58
Bluebird Greenhouses	64

C

Cape Cod Violetry	61
Cryptanthus Society	63

D

Dyna Gro.	60
-------------------	----

E

Evergreen Violets	64
-----------------------------	----

F

Florals of Fredericks	62
---------------------------------	----

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets	56
Herbal Garden Ceramics	60
Hobby Greenhouse	64

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies	60
-------------------------------------	----

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents	62
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses	59

M

Mighty Minis	63
Mudhole Productions	56
Multipure Water Systems	60

O

Optimara	25
--------------------	----

P

Pat's Patch	56
Pat's Pets	62

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets Inside Back Cover	
--	--

S

Shirley's House of Violets	58
Sonja's Violets	56
Source Technology	56
Susan's Desert Violets	58

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund	54
Teas Nursery	62
Toni's Home Nursery	63
Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover	
Travis' Violets	58

V

Verilux	57
Violets by Appointment	56
Violets, Etc.	56
Violet House	55
Violet Showcase	59
Violet Stands	64
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses	64

W

Jim Wildman	63
-----------------------	----



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geojl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

Our 52nd Annual Convention was a splendid week for AVSA members. Except for one day of rain, the weather in Sacramento was absolutely beautiful. "Discover California" provided a variety of interesting activities for those in attendance. Conventioneers on tours discovered the beautiful scenery of Lake Tahoe and the Napa Valley, discovered "Belly Flops" at the Jelly Belly factory, and discovered many "golden" shopping opportunities in Truckee, Nevada City, and Old Sacramento. Of course, the Commercial Sales Rooms, the various promotional tables, and the auction at the Saturday luncheon were a "gold mine" for conventioneers, offering all kinds of treasures for African violet enthusiasts. The workshops covered a wide range of topics on growing our favorite plants, the on-line group meeting had a record attendance, and, as always, the show featured many outstanding plants and designs.

On behalf of all members, I want to express our appreciation to the Northern California Affiliated Chapters, under the leadership of Convention Chairman Barbara Elkin, Vice Chairman Byron Borck, Show Chairman Jeani Hatfield, and Show Vice Chairman Jackie Kenney, for your hospitality. I would also like to thank Convention Director Ann Miller and the members of the Convention Committee for their dedication to producing a successful convention. We were all sorry that Ann had to miss part of the convention due to the death of her father-in-law early in convention week. Thanks to Convention Committee Vice Chairman Linda Owens for taking over while Ann was away. In addition, I want to thank the commercial members who traveled great distances and took the extra steps to meet the agricultural inspection requirements to take plants into California. Thanks also go to Pat Richards for coordinating our first auction at the Saturday Luncheon, to all those who contributed items, and to Jack Wilson for serving as auctioneer. It was great fun and was quite successful.

One additional "Thank You" goes to all of the exhibitors for growing and transporting all of those gorgeous plants and designs to enter in the convention show. Your extra effort and dedication are definitely appreciated. Congratulations to Bev Promersberger for her Best in Show and to Cathy Cornibe for her Best in Design.

Plans for next year's convention are well under way. Scheduled for April 4-11, 1999, in Houston, this should be the perfect time to visit the AVSA Office, the NASA Space Center, and a host of beautiful gardens. So plan now to get your tax returns done early and head for Houston next April for "A Lone Star Violet Round-Up."

The Board of Directors met during the recent convention. I am pleased to report that the Board approved two recommendations of great significance to the members of AVSA. First is the recommendation of an ad hoc committee appointed by the President to establish an AVSA Scholarship Program. A new special committee chaired by Dr. Charles Ramser will develop further guidelines and administer the AVSA Scholarship Program. Second, four proposals for grants from the Boyce Edens Research Fund were also approved by the Board. The four projects recommended by the Research Committee, chaired by Dr. Charles Cole, will deal with Testing and Nutritional Guidelines for African Violets, Botrytis Control in African Violets, Controlling Western Flower Thrips and Other Pests of African Violets, and DNA Typing and Genetic Sequencing of the African Violet Species.

The new Judge's Handbook and MVL #8 are now available from the AVSA Office. Several new items from the Ways and Means Committee are also available, including mouse pads, mugs, letter openers, pins, and a new watch design. Check the ad later in this issue of the *African Violet Magazine* (page 40) and get your orders in early. **Supplies are limited.**

AVSA has recently joined forces with Garden Web to sponsor a new African Violet Bulletin Board on the Internet. This forum offers African violet growers from around the world an opportunity to exchange information about growing our favorite plants. To participate, point your browser to <http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/afviolet/>.

Happy growing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

This issue of the AVM features photographs of some of the award-winning plants from the 1998 convention in Sacramento, CA. Our executive Committee heard your requests for more color in the *African Violet Magazine*, and you'll be pleased to see the many beautiful plants displayed in this issue - most of them show-stoppers from the 1998 AVSA National Convention.

To find out who *all* the winners are, read the show highlights on page 5.

A copy of the white mailing cover that will protect your September AVM is reprinted on page 44 of this issue. AVSA has several new items that should be of interest to you; the new MVL and Judge's Handbook, as well as the new ideas from our Ways and Means Committee. See the new Ways and Means selections in color on page 40. These featured items are in **limited supply**, so you'll want to get your order in right away.

The Sacramento and Napa Valley areas are fine examples of the beauty of California. While at the convention, AVSA Administrative Coordinator, **Jenny Daugereau**, and I rented a car and explored the Napa Valley, filming miles and miles of vineyards and the breath-taking countryside.

The CA Convention Committee, under the direction of **Barbara Elkin**, did a wonderful job. It was great to see old friends and meet many of those I've only spoken with on the phone. Several of our Canadian members managed to join us this year, and I had been looking forward to meeting newlyweds **Winston** and **Laurel Goretsky**. Fortunately, Winston agreed to be AVSA's photographer, and you'll find his photos sensational. Look for them on the covers of the AVM for the next 6 issues, as well as some of the Showcase photos. It was also a lot of fun to meet

Maida Den Oudsten, **Gabriela Liberty** and **Ingrid Nelson**. See some of those who "Discovered California" on pages 42 and 43.

As the AVSA conventions are held in different areas of the country each year, I want to encourage all of you to do your best to attend. It can be a fun, rewarding experience - not only in the plants you'll see (and buy), the knowledge you'll gain, but in the friendships you'll make.

Thanks to all of the Board members who worked with me at the AVSA Sales Table. **Gary Gordon** and **Ron Davidson** worked more shifts than called for, and it's apparent that they're both salesmen at heart.

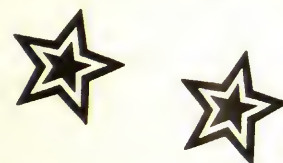
Our Ways and Means Chairman, **Mary Walbrick**, was a study in dedication, never leaving the Ways and Means table and selling an amazing number of those new items. (Again, page 40.)

A recent note from my friends, **Bill** and **Kay Lyons**, demonstrates once again how caring AV folks are. Kay lost her collection of AVMS, spanning over 25 years, when their Pennsylvania home flooded in 1996. Imagine their surprise when they were approached in Sacramento by folks from Ohio, asking if Kay was still looking for back issues! Somehow, an article had appeared in the Ohio State newsletter, telling of their plight. The Lyons want to thank **Anne Tinari**, **Janet Riemer**, **Union County AVS (NJ)** and the **AVSA office staff** for helping Kay completely replace her collection.

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of **Dick Maduro**, former owner of the Violet House in Gainesville, FL. With his wife, Ann, Mr. Maduro attended many AVSA conventions and had been a great help to **Bill** and **Bebe Edwards**, current owners of the Violet House.



CONVENTION 1999
HOUSTON, TEXAS
APRIL 4 - 11



START MAKING YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND
NOW!!!!

1998 AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

52nd Annual AVSA Convention
Sacramento, CA

Best in Show	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	Bev Promersberger
Second Best in Show	Ness' Cranberry Swirl	Carroll Gealy
Third Best in Show	Suncoast Paisley Print	Carroll Gealy
Best AVSA Standard Collection	Fredette's Moonflower, Favorite Child, Suncoast Paisley Print	Carroll Gealy
Second Best AVSA Standard Collection	Ness' Viking Maiden, Matecumbe, Nob Hill	Irene Boro
Best Trailer	Aggie Trail	Carroll Gealy
Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection	Sassy Shirley, Shy Blue, Ness' Cranberry Swirl	Carroll Gealy
Second Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection	Boo Man, Rob's Perfect Peach, Swing Along	Pat Richards
Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Ruby, Optimara Violet Sapphire, Optimara Little Opal	Kathy Lahti
Second Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara, Little Tourmaline, Optimara Little Moonstone	Fred Packer
Third Best Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Monet, Optimara Van Gogh, Optimara Michelangelo	Irene Boro
Best Miniature	Texas Space Dust	Bev Promersberger
Best Semiminiature	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	Bev Promersberger
Best Species	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i> #299	Jim Turner
Sweepstakes in Horticulture		Fred Packer
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture		Irene Boro
Best in Design	"Balloon Adventures"	Cathy Cornibe
Second Best in Design	"Experience Yosemite Valley"	Mae Mendes
Third Best in Design	"Strike It Rich at Coloma"	Vera Parker
Sweepstakes in Design		Barbara Elkin
Sweepstakes in Design Runner-up		Laverne Cottet
Best Display Table		Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Second Best Display Table		Rob's Mini-o-lets
Third Best Display Table		Violet Showroom
Best New Introduction	Ms Smartypants	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Commercial AVSA Collection	Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Diamond	Shirley Sanders
Second Best Commercial AVSA Collection	Frosted Denim, Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Tippy Toe	Fay Wagman
Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Ness' Angel Babe	Fay Wagman
Second Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Rob's Iridium Queen	Fay Wagman
Third Best Commercial Specimen Plant	Rob's Penny Ante	Fay Wagman
Best Commercial Other Gesneriad	<i>Columnnea</i> 'Julia'	Lynn Lombard
Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara South Dakota, Optimara Harlequin, Rhapsodie Angelica	Kent's Flowers
Second Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Lapis, Optimara Little Ruby	Shirley Sanders
Third Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection	Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Apatite, Optimara Rose Quartz	Fay Wagman
Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes		Fay Wagman



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!

Part two of a two part series.

The elementary skills of watering and lighting have been mastered, and your violets are staying alive. The secondary skills of fertilizing, choosing the proper soil and pot size are in place. Your violets are blooming most of the time, and you are enjoying your hobby. Can it get better? Is there more to learn? Definitely.

VIOLET COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

As you might expect, at college level there is a range of courses to study.

REPOTTING 101: If African violets are regularly transplanted, plants can live for over forty years. Not only will they survive that long, but they can also remain attractive!

A general rule is to transplant violets at least once a year. It may be done more often, especially if there is any evidence of a neck, or stalk, developing below the bottom row of leaves.

The reasoning for once-a-year repotting is that potting mixes tend to deteriorate and become more acid over time. If fresh soil is added at least once a year, violets will be more able to use fertilizer efficiently. This is because several key nutrients cannot be absorbed when the pH is too acid or alkaline, but almost all can be absorbed when the soil pH is neutral.

Repotting the neck promptly is partly cosmetic – violets look prettier when the rows of leaves are reasonably even with the rim of the pot. But there is a good cultural reason as well. The longer repotting is postponed, the more stressful the repotting will be.

Do not be tempted just to use a bigger pot with each transplanting! If a violet's roots cannot fill the bigger pot, all sorts of problems can result, most of which will likely result in rotting. Follow the rule that the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span.

Ideally, repotting should be done when a neck is less than one inch long. Allow the plant to dry out a bit so that leaves will be less turgid and less likely to snap. Remove any

lower leaves that are fading or yellowing. Gently scrape away the dried scab-like tissue on the neck so that new roots will be able to generate from there.

Next, lift the plant out of the pot (squeezing or tapping the sides of the pot can help to loosen the soil ball). Cut away as much of the bottom of the rootball as there is neck. A one-inch neck would require a one-inch trimming of the root ball.

Next, place it into a pot that is appropriate for the violet's size. Fill in with fresh potting soil at the top, around the neck. Do not pack this down! Water the plant thoroughly until water drains out the bottom. Job is done!

Elongated necks (over three inches) can be repotted, but the technique is a bit different. Whenever all or most of the root system must be removed, it is necessary to provide a longer recovery period after repotting.

Once again, allow the plant to become slightly dry. Remove any aging leaves. Scrape the dried tissue on the neck. If the neck is so long that no roots can be retained, then cut away the entire root system, leaving only about one inch of neck. Fill a correctly-sized pot with fresh potting mix. Set the plant stalk down into the pot, being careful to center it. Add water until it runs out the bottom.

Finally, place the entire potted violet into a transparent closed container (such as a clear plastic bag). Be sure to close it tightly. Leave the plant for at least two to four weeks, or until the center shows signs of growing again. The high humidity will support the leaves while new roots are generating.

PROPAGATING 101: There are several methods for propagating African violets. This discussion will be limited to propagation that results in a clone of the parent plant, that is, offspring that is genetically the same as the parent.

Propagation of violets by leaf cutting is quite easy. Select and remove a fresh, healthy leaf. Cut the stem at an angle, leaving only about one inch of stem. Place this stem into a small container of fresh, very light potting mix. Water it in thoroughly, then put it in a closed transparent container. Self-sealing plastic bags work very well for this. Place it in a well-

lit location, but away from direct sunlight.

Some growers prefer to start leaves in a container of water before moving them to soil. If you prefer that method, we recommend that a leaf be planted as soon as the tiny roots begin to develop. It can be left in water until tiny plants are formed, but the root structure that forms will not transfer well into soil. Starting leaves in soil seems to present fewer transplanting problems.

Leaves will need about one month to develop a root system. After this, tiny plantlets should begin to form. They will gradually emerge from the soil, near the leaf stem. Be patient. Some leaves put up babies in a few weeks, some may take several months, and some produce very few offspring.

Once the baby plants are about two inches tall, they should be separated from the mother leaf and each placed in its own small pot. It will take a bit of experience to distinguish each separate small plant. If you should get two into one pot, you will soon notice that your small plant has a bushy look with more than one crown producing leaves. You must separate them so that each plant has its own pot!

A second method of propagating is to remove the sideshoots or suckers from a mature plant. Suckers are produced spontaneously by violets, often when there is some sort of stress to the plant. Suckers grow between rows of leaves and if they are left to grow, will cause your violet to become bushy and disorganized looking.

To remove a sucker, gently prod the base of it with the point of a dull pencil or semi-sharp object. Done correctly, it will come free as a distinct plant with several leaves. Be sure that you are seeing at least four tiny leaves before you remove the sucker! Sometimes flower stems have prominent "wing leaves" that can look like an incoming sucker. There will not be more than two leaves on a bud stem, however, so once four leaves are visible you may be sure it is an unwanted sucker.

Sometimes, when propagating, you will get a mutation (called a sport) rather than a clone of the parent plant. Sports are generally undesirable, although occasionally something totally new will appear in this way. Sports are especially common with violets that have bi-color flowers. Some growers believe that they get more babies coming "true" if they use the second method of propagating with suckers. This is absolutely true if you are propagating a plant that is a chimera. Chimeras, or pinwheels, have distinctive stripes on each lobe of its flower and can only be propagated using suckers.

GROOMING 101: Violets look best when clean and well-groomed. It requires good habits!

Any fading flowers should be clipped off the bud stem as you notice them. Once there is only one flower left, the entire bud stem should be pulled out.

Fading older leaves should also be removed. A leaf

would be considered old when it is on the bottom row and begins to lose its green color. Similarly, any leaves that are smaller than the leaves in the row above should be removed. It is normal for leaves in the outer row to age and fade.

Cultural problems (such as poor soil pH, fertilizer excess, or insects) can cause outer leaves to become mottled, develop brown edges, or to wilt. These leaves also need to be removed, but it is important to seek the reason behind these problems.

At least once a month, any suckers that are beginning to form should be removed. These suckers may be disposed of or propagated, but they must not be left to grow. One of the most important concepts in this upper-level of growing is that African violets should be grown with only one crown!

At least once a year, the leaves should be washed to remove dust and other build-up. In between, dust and debris can be brushed or blown away. Dirt will block sunlight from reaching cells and gives plants a dull look.

The easiest way to wash foliage is to hold the plant under a gentle stream of tap water adjusted to a temperature that is slightly warm to the touch. If the leaves have become grimy, they may be misted with a soapy solution first. Allow this to stand for about thirty minutes so that the soap can cut through the build-up, then rinse in the tap water. Gently blot each leaf dry using a soft cloth or absorbent sponge. Allow the plant to finish drying in a location out of direct sunlight.

Mastered all of these courses? Your violets are looking beautiful! You have earned your degree. Do you know everything? Not yet!

GRADUATE SCHOOL

At the highest level of African violet growing, specialties will be developed. Not everyone will need to know the ins and outs of each specialty. Only a few of the specialty areas will be interesting to most growers. Rather than present the facts here, we'll tell you where you can go to explore each area that interests you.

Please note that many of these topics are frequently discussed in articles in this magazine. To find articles that would have been in previous issues, consult the January-February magazine each year for the "Annual Index" which lists authors, titles, and subjects of all the articles printed in the previous year. If you do not have the issue listed, the AVSA office may be able to provide a reprint of the article in question.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS FOR COMPETITION:

Perhaps the most definitive book ever written on this subject is Pauline Bartholomew's text, *Growing to Show*, which is offered for sale in this magazine. A second fine book is the *AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* (often called the "Judge's Handbook"), which is sold by the AVSA office and described just inside the front cover of this magazine. Both explain the steps involved to obtain

perfect show plants in easy language and are good texts to add to an African violet library.

SPECIALTY GROWING: As growers become more experienced, they often find that they prefer only one type of African violets. This might be miniatures or semiminiatures, standards or large standards, or trailing violets. Each type has techniques that are specialized. While this column provides general care information which is most applicable to standard-sized violets, there is one column devoted to the small plants. Writers often contribute articles about all types of African violets. The "Judges Handbook" will also give good guidelines.

INSECTS AND DISEASE: Many would argue that this is of interest to all growers, and perhaps it is. Not everyone should attempt to treat for insects and diseases, however. Many of the chemicals are restricted and not for use by the casual grower. It is possible to grow beautiful violets without bugs or disease just by disposing of any plants that are not growing normally.

For those who wish to make a study of insects, we would recommend Dr. Charles Cole's book, *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets*, which is offered for sale by several advertisers and the AVSA office.

Diseases of African violets have never been the sole topic of any one book but are discussed in *Growing to Show*, the "Judges Handbook", and in many of the general books on African violets. Current articles may be most helpful since recommended treatments for disease may vary according to products that are on the market.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY: Exactly how does a violet use sunlight, and what are the technical terms for each plant part? This truly is a college course. If this area interests you, find a good textbook or local college who offers horticultural classes. Plants are fairly consistent in structure, and African violet growers can benefit a great deal from this academic experience!

HYBRIDIZING: If the development of new hybrid cultivars interests you, Melvin Robey's "African Violets Gifts from Nature" treats the subject in some detail. You also would want to read Dr. Jeff Smith's column and various articles in back issues of this magazine. You may send Dr. Smith questions which he can respond to in his column. Contact other hybridizers for suggestions and encourage-

CORRECTION:

May/June 1998 AVM

"Grooming is more Important than you Think!"
page 27

Under paragraph beginning... "DEDUCT 1/2
point per blossom for:

Delete "not enough blossoms for plant
size;"

ment. Finally, almost any good biology text will explain Gregor Mendel's laws of genetics. Many hybridizers never master these scientific principles, but they do govern the results of African violet hybridizing.

SPECIES: The history of African violets is in the original species which were found in nature. These humble-looking violets are the foundation for all of the newer cultivars now available. There are some growers who feel a personal responsibility to protect and maintain them for future generations. The newest edition (1998) of the "Judges Handbook" is offering a detailed description of the individual characteristics of each of the twenty or so species that are known. This is a very helpful guide. There are also several commercials who offer species plants for sale who can answer many questions.

OTHER GESNERIADS: There are many cousins of African violets, all of which are classified as gesneriads. This is an extremely varied family of plants and can be a hobby in itself. The AGGS (American Gesneriad and Gloxinia Society) was designed to support this interest. New members joining (\$20 per year, \$25 for international addresses) will receive an instructional guide, a packet of seeds, and the magazine which is published four times a year. The membership chairmen are M. J. and D. B. Tyler, P. O. Box 1598, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194. Once again, the "Judges Handbook" is a good source for beginners on the topic.

DESIGN: One of the most creative areas of study is artistic design using whole African violet plants as well as individual flowers. Again, an excellent discussion of the topic is found in the "Judges Handbook". Back issues of this magazine frequently offer articles regarding design.

NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!!!!

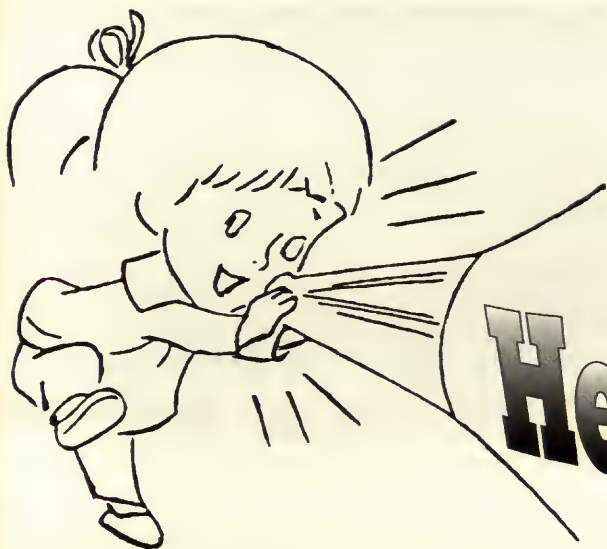
It is humbling to list everything that could be known about something that seems so simple as an African violet. It also helps to explain why an entire society has grown up in support of it. There really is so much to know, and while there are a number of people who know quite a lot, there is no one who knows everything. Furthermore, just when you are positive that something is true, someone does a study that says it isn't. It keeps the hobby interesting.

Keep learning!

**NEW SHOW
SCHEDULE APPROVER**

Please send your
show schedules for approval to:

Billie Golla
955 Mission Hills Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

An affiliate is a club or society of members in a local area that chooses to join and work with AVSA to provide a convenient association for those interested in African violets and to stimulate interest and education in the propagation and culture of African violets. We had several new affiliates that were listed in the September issue of the African Violet magazine. We want to welcome the following affiliates to AVSA that have not been listed:

Katy Trail African Violet Club
President - Helen Blanton
622 Riverside Drive
St. Charles, MO 63304

East Tennessee African Violet Society
Oak Ridge Civic Center, 1403 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
First Thursday of each month, 6-8 p.m.
Contact: Melanie Deaderick
106 Oak Hill Road, Clinton, TN 37716
423-463-9972 or E-mail <Melmooch@aol.com>

If you have not found an affiliate in your area, maybe you would like to be a part of one of the following groups that are in the process of getting organized. We want to encourage them in their progress and hope that they might find some new members among our readers.

New River Valley Area of Southwest VA
Blacksburg Area Library Community Room
Blacksburg, VA
Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: K.C. Arceneaux 540-552-2462
Beth Patterson 540-552-6619

Holland/Grand Rapids, MI
Contact: Peggy Clear
281 Little Station, Holland, MI 49424
616-399-2129 or E-mail <clear@freenet.macatawa.org>
or
Ralph Haan
2857 Parkside Drive, Jenison, MI 49423
616-699-3713

Orlando, FL
Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Russell L. Martin
12741 Lower River Boulevard, 32828-9005
407-380-0454 or E-mail <rusmartin3@juno.com>

If you are in the process of organizing a club and would like to have your meeting and contact information printed in the next magazine listing (September), please send the information to Bev Promersberger.

If you still have not found a club or an affiliate to assist you with your love of the African violet, please request the packet of material that is available to you and start your own club or study group. The packet is a basic guide to help you gather interested growers together, find a meeting place, select the time and day, and to help you get started. You can request this packet by writing:

Bev Promersberger
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
E-mail <promers@juno.com>

A Helping Hand Into The Future

by Bev Promersberger
Monument, CO

"Dear African Violet Society,

I appreciate all you have done to help my class and me grow my African Violet. You spent a lot of your time and knowledge with us.

I thank you from the top to the bottom of my heart for all the equipment you let us use.

For Mother's Day I gave my mom my plant, she enjoyed it and we are taking very good care of it.

Your friend and Plant Lover,
Katie"
(4th grade student)

Is your affiliate (club) looking for a new project? Do you want to interest a younger generation in your hobby? Our affiliate was so thankful to have a new meeting place in a local public school that we wanted to show our appreciation. The thank-you letter above is just one of the many we received as a result of our affiliate project.

We decided to present the idea of teaching one of the grades the basics of propagating and growing African violets. The principal was thrilled and had no difficulty getting a teacher to volunteer her class for the project.



Volunteer making sure the plants are carefully labeled.

The class that was selected was a 4th/5th grade combination. After permission was granted to proceed with the project, I returned to our club to ask for volunteers to help with the program. Another experienced grower and I offered to take charge of the program. It was easy to get new growers to join us, giving us more hands to assist the students. This was a great opportunity for some of our new members to learn more about the basics.

This project takes about one hour of class time, four times a year, October, November, January and May. In order to proceed with this project, the following is a detailed schedule for your guidance.

September:

1. Discuss the project with your affiliate to see if it is interested in pursuing it.
2. Recruit three to four people to visit the classroom with at least one in charge of each meeting. The position of leadership can be shared or done by the same volunteer each time.
3. Present the project to the principal or teacher at a local elementary or middle school.



Volunteer making sure the pot is properly prepared for transplanting the starter.



Volunteers guiding the students as they transplant the starters.



Volunteers checking the plants transplanted into a soil mix.

October:

1. Meet with the class for about one hour on a day and time chosen by the teacher.
2. Spend about 20 minutes discussing the following:
What is a violet?
What is propagation?
Discuss leaf propagation and the procedure that the students will follow that day.
3. Following the demonstration, divide the students into groups with the volunteers helping each student cut and plant a leaf in his/her own solo cup or selected pot for propagation. You might even pot some extra leaves in case some of them don't survive. The leaves can be donated and labeled by the volunteer members prior to arriving. Leaves from other club members could also be requested, if needed. We used a mix consisting of equal



One of many students proceeding on her own.

parts of vermiculite and perlite, but you can use whatever propagating medium you are most comfortable using. The students fill the solo cups with the propagating mixture prepared in advance, cut and place the leaf in the cup, and put the plant name label on the cup with a second label with his/her name.

4. Place the solo cups on matting in a permaprest tray and set the tray in the best window location available. Show

the students how to check and water the leaves each day. If possible, one of your volunteers might even make periodic inspections.

November:

1. Approximately one month later the volunteer group returns to the classroom. You do not want to wait until the leaves produce babies because you do not want the students to be discouraged waiting for them to become mature enough to separate.
2. Review the information shared in October and show the students the second step of the project, how to separate the babies and pot them into individual solo cups. Clumps ready to separate can be donated by the team of volunteers or by additional members of the club, thus giving more members an opportunity to participate in the project.
3. Again, divide the students into groups and guide them as they work together to separate the clumps, each one potting a plant in a solo cup. The labels can be printed in advance, and each student places it on his/her plant with his/her name. The mix for potting the babies is best prepared prior to the meeting. Consider potting up some extra babies in case some do not



One of the students carefully placing her plant with the others in the tray to be placed by the window.

survive or in case some additional students join the class before the project is completed.

4. Arrange the babies on matting in a second permaprest tray, and place the tray in the window by the tray of leaves. Repeat the instructions for checking and watering the plants. This would also be a good time to discuss a mild fertilizing program (1/8 tsp per gallon of water) to begin when the plants begin to show growth. Also, if possible, have one of the volunteers make a weekly check to make sure that they are progressing.

January:

1. You will probably want to skip meeting with the students until after the first of the year. It's a busy time for all, and the babies won't be ready for transplanting until sometime in January. By this time you will probably find that the babies transplanted in November are about three times the diameter of the pot, ready to be transplanted into a three-inch pot with soil mixture.
2. Review the information on propagating leaves and separating babies from our first two meetings with the students.
3. Spend about twenty minutes discussing:
Why it is time to repot (three times diameter of the pot)
The importance of a light, porous soil mixture
A simple mixture and ingredients
Methods of watering, especially wicking or whatever method you wish to use for the project
DON'T FORGET TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WICK BEING WET TO DRAW WATER
4. Break into groups again and transplant the babies into soil mix with wicking, placing them back into a permaprest tray by the window, giving the students instructions for care, watering, fertilizing, and rotating toward the light for even growth. Be sure to transplant the extra ones in case they are needed.

5. It is important for a volunteer to continue checking the plants to make sure they are watered, fertilized, rotated for even growth and even separated into two trays as they begin to grow and need more room.

May:

1. The week before Mother's Day should be your last visit with the students. Many, but maybe not all, of the violets should be in bloom.
2. Discuss continued care of the violet, light, water, fertilizer, and rotation.
3. Some of the things the club might consider providing for each student are foil to wrap the plant for Mother's Day gift giving, small packets of fertilizer, and even some kind of individual water aids like margarine tubs or the Volkmann water aid.
4. We even asked our club photographer to attend and take pictures of our final meeting with the students.

It is important to plan the project carefully so that the students are not overwhelmed. It is better that they learn a little at a time. Use as many visual aids as possible. Always be prepared, and keep it clear and simple.

Each student should have a plant, watering container and fertilizer to give their mother for Mother's Day. They should also take their rooted leaves which, by this time, should show babies.

I don't know how many of the students involved in our project are growing or have an interest in growing African violets. I did encounter a mother at a basic Care and Culture lecture that I gave at the local horticulture center several years later. She shared with me that the reason she attended my lecture was to find out how to care for the violet she received from her daughter for Mother's Day several years earlier. You guessed it - our school project! You never know who you might end up helping.

Needed: Nominations for the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

The Mabel and Glen Hudson Award was established to honor individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter. The recipient is recognized at the closing banquet of the annual convention with a citation and a very nice award. All affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award. Secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the nominee, along with

a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments to:

Linda L. Golubski
AVSA Awards Committee Chair
1416 NW A Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 229-2051 after 6:00 PM CST
e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1,

1998 to be considered for the award that will be presented at the 1999 AVSA Convention in Houston, Texas. In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations maximum consideration, please share as much information as possible, focusing on contributions at the local affiliate level. There is a form to use as a guide that may be obtained by calling, writing or e-mailing to the above addresses.

What a Lifesaver!

by Rose Marie Yeates
Ft. Pierce, FL

At the point in my life when middle age began to creep up on me, with all the "changes" that entails, African violets were introduced to me. Since I have always been an avid gardener and have always adorned our home with houseplants, this flowering houseplant didn't have to do much to win my heart. One, two, three, four and then many, many more African violets found their way into our home.

In time, much to the dismay of my husband, he was slowly losing the use of his tool/work bench down in our basement as it became a "potting bench" for my African violets. Gardening tools, potting soil and dirty pots were all he ever saw on his tool bench.

Finally, one day I heard pounding down in the basement. When I went downstairs to investigate, much to my surprise, I saw metal storage racks, four-foot fluorescent shop lights and paneling lying all over the basement floor. Much to my delight, my husband was dividing the basement in half, one side for him and one side for me!

This plant room became a little bit of heaven to me and to many of my friends who were also violet hobbyists. At any one given time I must have had a couple hundred violets down in our basement. Plantlets, small plants in 2 1/4" and 3" pots, good-sized plants, 4" pots and of course, leaves that I had put down in rooting medium in hopes of adding more plants to my collection.

I joined the African Violet Society of West New York and went on to join the African Violet Society of America, whose magazine has provided me with a wealth of knowledge on growing, grooming and propagating these beautiful plants.

In meeting with my physician at this time in my life, I was asked how I was "weathering the storm".

"How are you coping with hot flashes and depres-

sion?" he asked.

"No problem," I replied. "I go down in my basement to what I call my violet haven and lose myself in all there can be done when you are raising a couple hundred African violets."

Impressed, he told me, "I wish more women could find something to overcome the 'blahs' and forego taking medication to get through what could be a most unpleasant phase of life". Needless to say, I was quite proud of myself and my African violets at that time.

In 1989, we sold our home in Buffalo, New York and relocated to Florida. We hoped to extend my husband's longevity, as in the years prior to his retirement he had become a cardiac patient.

Now here I am, eight years later, and guess what? The African violets and my hubby have come to the rescue once again.

We miss our family up north. We especially miss the opportunity of watching our grandchildren grow. I'm back to relying on African violets to get me through some depressing times. My husband has built me a plant stand with four shelves, each housing a four-foot fluorescent shop light.

Once again, this amazing plant has come into my life, providing me with the contentment, satisfaction and pride I had experienced once before. I owe my soul to this incredible house plant. I am awfully proud to say that with all my years of working with these lovely plants up north, I was known as "the plant doctor", and now down here in Florida I have regained my "title". I feel so good when people ask my advice about raising my favorite house plant.

It is my belief that the African violet has played as important a role in my life as any of my doctors, and the best part is there was no pain involved to cure my ills!



Ed Hoefer's AFRICAN VIOLET BLOOM JELLY

1 quart African violet blooms in boiling water
2 or 3 tablespoons lemon juice

1 package "Sure-Jell®"
4 cups sugar

Pour boiling water over violet blooms and let set overnight. Strain off 2 cups liquid, add lemon juice and Sure-Jell®. Bring to full boil, add sugar. Put back on heat, and cook 1 minute at a rolling boil. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

You can also put the blossoms on food to decorate the

plate, or they look great on desserts. You may also float them in the punch bowl.

Note: Be sure the blossoms you use have not been sprayed with chemicals.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Many thanks to **Barbara Elkin** and her fine convention crew for the wonderful week in Sacramento. You have much to be proud of. Now, on to the plants!

AWARD-WINNING BEAUTIES

Gracing center stage this year was **'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'**, a cultivar so well known for its performance that it needs little introduction. This Best in Show exhibit, grown by veteran grower **Bev Promersberger** of Monument, Colorado, had gorgeously formed black-green, shiny foliage topped by a mound of medium to dark orchid-purple blooms. This is a small-growing semimini, one that you'll never have to take the ring out for! Other specimens of this cultivar were in evidence around the showroom, each having a mass of blooms and perfectly formed foliage, but none quite so dark and well-grown as this prize-winning entry. (Another tidbit about this cultivar: it is a mildew magnet! So grow it for two reasons: for performance and reliability, but also, it will be the first plant in your collection to remind you to be on the lookout for mildew!)

A personal favorite was 2nd Best in Show, **'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'**. With its double blooms of white and fuchsia stripes in abundance above naturally symmetrical, variegated foliage, this semiminature is a sure winner. Please note, while not a chimera, this plant comes true only from suckers. It was expertly grown by one of California's finest growers, **Carroll Gealy**, and was part of her gold rosette-winning, small AVSA Collection. The other plants in her collection included Pittman's super performer, 'Sassy Shirley', which has nice-forming, variegated foliage topped by blooms of the most delicate shade of lavender, and Lyon's 'Shy Blue', a variegated show-stopper that is easily topped by masses of light blue blooms.

The 2nd Best AVSA Semimini Collection was mine and featured plants from three of the most renowned hybridizers of small ones (Ness being the fourth). First was **'Boo Man'**

by Sidney Sorano, an easy-blooming cultivar with loads of light blue, frilled, white-edged blooms, which if grown cool, sometimes show a tinge of green. Dark, good-forming, and slightly ruffled foliage complete this outstanding semiminature. The second plant was **'Rob's Perfect Peach'**, again, an extremely reliable plant with perfectly symmetrical foliage and lovely peachy-pink blooms. Nothing fancy about this cultivar, just good, solid performance. The third plant was an older cultivar by Pittman, **'Swing Along'**. Again, if you want perfect symmetry, grow this older, very dark-foliaged variety which easily puts up a lovely bouquet of rose-colored, double blooms.

Bev Promersberger also grew the Best Miniature, **'Texas Space Dust'**, another Pittman hybrid with very nice, dark, variegated foliage topped with a prolific number of light pink blooms that show lots of "glitter". I don't have this one in my collection at present but it's a must-have! Perennial champion **Kathy Lahti** from Minnesota took top honors this year for the Best Holtkamp Collection with **'Optimara Little Ruby'**, **'Optimara Violet Sapphire'** and **'Optimara Little Opal'**. Kathy is remarkably consistent about putting together collections with plants of the same size and the same maturity. It takes quite a skilled showman to accomplish this. The 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection was grown by **Fred Packer**, who exhibited some absolutely amazing plants throughout the show and won the overall horticulture sweepstakes award. The cultivars in his collection were **'Optimara Little Crystal'**, **'Optimara Little Tourmaline'**, and **'Optimara Little Moonstone'**, all of which are good, solid performers. Congratulations, Fred! We hope to see more of your plants in future conventions.

IN THE SHOWROOM

There were three plants of special note in the showroom. **'Cool Blue'** is a newer hybrid by **Hortense Pittman** that is gaining much favor across the country for its tremen-

dous, easy-blooming ability. It has seemingly delicate blooms of sheer, medium blue with a good amount of glitter in them atop perfectly symmetrical, dark, shiny foliage. For ease of bloom, this semiminature can't be beat. A controversial oldie still being grown, and grown well by many Californians, is **'Rob's Copper Cat'**. This plant has very symmetrical, variegated foliage that is beautifully colored and slightly wavy. It is highly decorative even when not in bloom. The blooms, however, are very different: coppery pink, almost brownish salmon at times, with strong green, fringed edges that are borne in abundance. This plant is difficult to keep in size; nevertheless, Californians manage it very well! It was good to see it in the show. The third plant of note is **Cathy Cornibe's 'Cathy's Fireworks'**. This semiminature chimera deserves wider recognition around the nation. Its blooms have light pink stripes surrounded by fuchsia in abundance above perfectly formed, variegated foliage. There were several specimens throughout the showroom, all giving evidence to the deserved recognition of this plant.

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

In the commercial division, **Fay Wagman** took top honors with her expertly grown small ones! Coming all the way from New York, this is quite a feat. She took Best in Show in this division with **'Ness' Angel Babe'**, a miniature cultivar with perfectly formed, dark green foliage which easily puts up a mass of lightly ruffled, medium pink blooms. Again, nothing spectacular about it, just a good solid show plant! The 2nd Best plant was also shown by Fay, **'Rob's Iridium Queen'**. This slightly temperamental semiminature has white with varying amounts of cherry-red in its large, double blooms. The 3rd Best plant was also Fay's, **'Rob's Penny Ante'**. Many of you are familiar with this tiny-growing miniature that loves to hide its foliage with masses of white blooms with purple eyes. The most remarkable thing about Fay's plants is how truly small they were! They were not miniaturized: she simply has succeeded in growing them "small."

Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets once again won top awards with her delightful entries. She won the **Best Commercial AVSA Collection** with **'Optimara Little Moonstone'**, **'Optimara Rose Quartz'** and **'Optimara Little Diamond'**. Then, she turned around and

took the **2nd Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection**; with three more Optimaras - **'Optimara Rose Quartz'**, **'Optimara Little Lapis'** and **'Optimara Little Ruby'**.

Fay Wagman grew the **2nd Best Commercial AVSA Collection** with **'Frosted Denim'**, a Lyndon Lyons miniature cultivar that looks to be unbeatable, producing a huge quantity of light blue blooms with strong white edges atop symmetrical, small foliage. **'Ness' Angel Babe'** and **'Rob's Tippy Toe'**, a very tiny-growing miniature with purple edged, white blooms, completed her collection.

DISPLAY TABLES AND NEW INTRODUCTIONS

Both **Lyndon Lyons Greenhouses** and **Rob's Mini-ollets** are to be commended for putting together display tables. Coming all the way from New York state with such perfect specimens, and then winning first and second-best display tables, respectively, gives evidence to their abilities as showmen and their dedication to AVSA. May I also add how good it was to see a display table by Lyon's? It is only when plants are viewed collectively can a hybridizer/grower/exhibitor's efforts be truly appreciated and recognized. Thanks, Sidney! And Rob, thanks for doing it year after year after year!

The **Best New Introduction** was **'Ms. Smartypants'**, grown by **Sidney Sorano**. Although I cannot confirm this, it was reported to be another sport of their renowned cultivar **'Irish Flirt'**. It is a small-growing plant with ruffled, medium green foliage topped by the most delightful blooms of white, pink and green, melting together into an almost chimeral pattern of striking, unusual and ethereal beauty.

Because of the timing of convention and the need to get this column to Beaumont for printing, I am unable to describe the rest of the new introductions on Sidney's table, or the beauties on Rob's. I'll begin the next column with a discussion of these plants.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOUSTON

One thing is certain after having seen the past few convention shows: miniatures and semiminatures make participation in convention shows easy! They travel well, you can take several plants with you, and they don't suffer much from shock. Begin making plans now to attend the convention in the Lone Star State, April 3 - 12, 1999. And start growing those small ones to exhibit!

Coming Events

August 6-8 - WISCONSIN

'Art en Fleurs'
Milwaukee Art Museum
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee, WI
Info: Sarah Gartner (414) 224 - 3843

August 7 - OREGON

Heart of the Valley AVS Sale
Water Tower Mall at Johns Landing
5331 SW Macadam Ave., Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Chris Duvendack (503) 697-7373



In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
O6JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

Sometimes the questions I receive seem to come in clusters of related topics. In this month's column, we start with some questions regarding a popular, but poorly developed flower type, the reverse fantasy. Then we have a series of questions regarding raspberry-edged flowers. I think you'll find a few ideas for some very new violets suggested from these questions.

Q: *A leaf cutting of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' which is a dark blue semidouble with white fantasy markings (reverse fantasy) appears to have sported to a white/cream bloom with a pink blush. Is it normal for reverse fantasy plants to sport like this?*

A: I have not personally seen this type of sport for a reverse-fantasy plant, but given the tendency of fantasy plants to sport in general, I'm not surprised to hear about it. A quick post to the Gesneriphiles electronic mail group produced several responses from growers who have also had this happen. It would appear that reverse fantasy, as well as normal dot fantasy, can produce sports of the "spot" color and lose the background color all together.

Q: *How can reverse fantasy plants in pink with white markings be produced?*

A: I believe that we used to have plants of this type as I have seen advertisements for them in very old issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. However, if we have lost these plants, new reverse-fantasy plants in pink or red should be easy to produce. Cross a reverse-fantasy plant such as 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' to a strong-growing pink or red. The first generation (F1) should have 50% reverse-fantasy plants in blue shades. Backcross the best F1 reverse-fantasy offspring to the pink parent. About 13% of the offspring will be pink/red shades with the white fantasy markings.

The same result can be achieved by crossing the two

best F1 offspring together or self-pollinating a single F1 offspring. In this case, about 19% of the offspring should be reverse-fantasy plants in pink or red shades.

If you want to create something really new and different, try crossing a reverse-fantasy plant to a coral or coral-red plant. Backcrossing the F1 to the coral-colored parent should produce a small number (less than 5%) of reverse-fantasy plants in coral-red or coral-red shades. These should be very interesting plants in a new color combination! Good Luck!

Q: *I like the raspberry edge of 'Grandmaster' but find the blue color too dark to contrast well with the edging. Would crossing this plant with a double white dilute the blue color and keep the raspberry edge?*

A: Yes, a cross with a double white might dilute the blue color in the offspring, but it might not. White-flowered plants are unable to express any color, but they can still carry the genes for dark shades which would defeat the purpose of your cross. I'd suggest crossing 'Grandmaster' to a very pale double-pink or blue-flowered plant. These plants will carry the dominant intensity gene which will dilute the color of the flowers in the offspring. Raspberry edges are a genetic dominant, so at least 50% of the offspring should still have this trait. Your final result should be some offspring with raspberry edges in a much lighter shade of blue than 'Grandmaster'.

Q: *Why do some raspberry-edge plants have a speckling of color across the bloom and others do not?*

A: While the raspberry edge is a dominant genetic trait, the speckling factor appears to be a separate genetic factor. As you have observed, some raspberry-edge plants have the speckling while others do not. I suspect that speckling is a separate genetic dominant that can only be expressed in the presence of the raspberry-edge gene. If you use a

parent that has both raspberry edges and speckling, you should get some offspring with both traits. If both parents have the two traits, then a very high percentage of the offspring should inherit both traits.

Q: *Could reverse fantasy and raspberry edges be combined into the same flower?*

A: I haven't seen a flower of this type, but I don't see why it couldn't be done. Try crossing a reverse-fantasy plant with a plant that has strong raspberry edges. About 25% of the offspring should have both traits in combination. This would be a real "Fourth of July" plant in that the flowers should be blue with white-fantasy markings surrounded by a red-raspberry edge. Be sure to send me a leaf!

Q: *I would like to use 'Irish Flirt' in hybrid crosses, but I can't seem to find any stamens or pistils in the flowers. Can 'Irish Flirt' still be used as a parent?*

A: To be used as a parent in a cross, the flowers must have either stamens to produce pollen or a functional pistil. Many full-double flowers are difficult to use because the mutations that produce the extra petals do so by converting the stamens and pistils into petals. Plants with green flowers, such as 'Irish Flirt', also have low fertility because the green color mutation keeps all the floral parts "leaf-like" and sexually immature. The combination of double petals and green color may have made 'Irish Flirt' essentially sterile.

About the only thing I can recommend is to keep examining the flowers to see if one can be found with a functional stamen or pistil. The side flowers on a bloom stalk are often less developed and may give you a chance for a fertile bloom. You might also check on plants grown under the cultural conditions of different people. Sometimes the cultural environment of the plant will affect the amount of doubleness in a flower, allowing some flowers to develop their sexual parts and fertility.



AVSA Auction Was A Great Success!

A very sincere thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items for our 1st annual AVSA luncheon auction. Because of your tremendous support, we made \$1,247 for the general AVSA convention fund.

These donors deserve special recognition:

Commercials: Tinari Greenhouses, The Violet Showroom, Travis' Violets, Herbal Gardens Ceramics, Violet House, Belisle's Violet House and Alannah's African Violets.

Affiliates and organizations: California Convention Committee, Missouri Valley African Violet Council, San Joaquin AVS, the Omaha Convention 2000 Committee, and the Stampede City AVS of Calgary, Canada.

Individuals: Carol Reynolds, Edna Rourke, Margaret Jarrett, Dale Martens, Lynn Lombard, Helen Magill, Olivette Hall, Ingrid Nelson, Barbara Elkin, Annemarie Beardsley, Gabriela Liberty, Jann Selleck, Sandy Officer, Mary Woo, Margaret Easches, Pat

Richards, Winston Goretsky, Fran Traylor, Ann Miller and Mary Ann Switzer

To all winning bidders: Thank you very much for your very kind support. Without your generosity and enthusiasm this auction would not have been possible.

To the auction staff: All my gratitude for pulling it all together. Anna Jean and George Landgren, Helen and Warren Barrett, Steve Covolo, Sue Hill, Carol Allegretti, Mona Donnell, Jeanne Cotten, Sue Knobbe, Ruby Cox, Dale Martens, Will Dennis, Grace McCurnin, and Jenny Daugereau. Huge thanks to John Carter for taking so much time to help input the information into the computer and keep track of auction bids. And finally, to our auctioneer extraordinaire, Jack Wilson.

Information about next year's auction will appear in upcoming issues of the African Violet Magazine, so keep an eye out for great auction items for Houston in 1999!

"Thanks" can never be said or heard enough, but for what it's worth ... THANKS TO EVERYONE!



South

THE WAY DOWN Club



It is far from being the largest African violet club in the United States, and in all probability not the smallest. It does, however, have some distinctive features that can be matched by very few AV clubs in the nation.

The Valley African Violet Society is arguably the southern-most club in the continental U.S. At first glance, that geographical claim might mean little, but weather observers will point out that it remains warm and often downright hot throughout the year.

In the middle of what the remainder of the U.S. considers winter, temperatures can reach into the 90-degree mark on some days. During a major share of the cold season elsewhere, the Lower Rio Grande Valley sees temperatures at 70 degrees and often above. There are colder days in the 60's and rarely in the 50's, but not often.

The extremely high end of the scale, 90 degrees, can create special problems. As an example, not long ago the club held its annual show and sale. Many clubs in more northerly climes would probably not dream of holding a show-sale during the first few days of March.

On the day of the event, the temperature reached 90 degrees. Fortunately, it was comfortable in the McAllen International Museum where the show was held. At day's end, a special problem confronted the members. The question surely in each person's mind had to have been how much of the heat that had accumulated inside the vehicles could the violets tolerate.

It was probably well over 100 degrees inside the cars and vans. We had never personally faced the question of what traumatic effect a quick change of temperature from the museum showroom to the vehicles might have on the plants. Not taking a chance, we set our plants in the shade, started the car and turned on the air conditioning. Once the interior had cooled, the plants were transferred.

The area weather is ruled by storms wheeling across Mexico from the Pacific Ocean or those rolling around from the Gulf of Mexico. The rains, however, are very few; thus Mother Nature allows desert fauna to grow. The dedicated members of the club must solve many problems in order to successfully raise plants.

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI and Combes, TX

Where do they place violets in the home to get enough light and yet avoid the scalding rays of the sun? If one coyly suggests using artificial lights, the question becomes how much more heat is added to the room. Oh! Well! They do have air conditioning as a living requirement anyway, the casual observer might remark. Has anyone thought of how much more these folks might pay in electrical bills to offset the heat generated by light fixtures?

Even with the use of natural light, the temperature and resultant need for air conditioning creates special problems of humidity.

Despite the unique problems, the members of the Valley AV Society have as much, or more, enthusiasm as club members elsewhere in the country. They bring fresh leaves to pass around at the monthly meetings in member's homes.

They publish an annual booklet containing pertinent club information as well as suggestions on raising plants, and an informational sheet containing instructions for raising plants is also produced as a hand out for would-be African violet lovers.

Each member has what is called a "project plant". It is an identical starter variety. All project plants are entered in what is called a "project class". The best-looking specimen is then given an award.

Each meeting has a theme and a program, whether it be a slide series, speaker, or demonstration. Annually they handle a public workshop as well as the show-sale.

Perhaps the most unusual feature is that many of the members are called "Winter Texans". They drive from the colder climates in Minnesota, Michigan, Wyoming, Missouri, and Maine to spend the winter in the Valley. Most remarkable is that these folks willingly face the difficulties in transporting African violets from their homes in the north to their second homes in southern Texas. They have a love of the plants to such a degree that they nurse them through the traumatic trip just to pursue the delightful hobby.

Yes! The Valley African Violet Society does have a number of unique features, but members do have that special caring for their plants in common with members in all AV clubs.

Care to come on down to the Rio Grande Valley to spend a few days, or the winter? Give one of the club members a call, and there is no doubt of an invitation to the next meeting!

BASIC CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Rena Douglas
Australia



If we bear in mind that African violets like living conditions very similar to those which we enjoy most, then we are well on the way to growing and flowering them successfully. We all need water and food to survive, and to thrive we need warmth, light and comfortable living conditions - and so do our African violets.

1. Light - Bright light is essential for producing flowers, but not direct sunlight. Use a fine curtain or tissue paper to filter the sunlight. If you are growing your plant in natural light, check that it is getting enough light by holding your hand in front of the spot where your plant will be sitting. If a good shadow is cast, then there is sufficient light. You may have to try a number of places around the house before finding the ideal position, but it is well worthwhile persevering. Generally speaking, if a plant is more than about three feet from a window it will not flower well, if at all. The direction in which the window faces can affect the result, but the shadow test will give a better idea of how good the position is. Do turn plants regularly to encourage symmetrical growth - a quarter turn every day or so should be enough. Another thing to remember is that as well as good light, African violets need an eight-hour period of darkness in every twenty-four hours.

2. Water - There is a well-known saying in AV circles that more plants die from overwatering than from any other problem. Water according to the needs of the plant. Feel the potting mix, and when it seems only slightly damp, then is the time to water. Do not leave the plant sitting in water - African violets hate wet feet! Use wick-watering as the easiest watering system.

3. Food - Regular feeding produces good results. Use less fertilizer in winter, and be sure to avoid chemical build-up

on the pots (seen as an orange crust on the rim of the pot) by flushing with plain water once a month.

4. Warmth - Ideally the temperature range enjoyed by African violets goes from about 65°F to 75°F. Above and below these temperatures they will survive, but not really flourish. Avoid draughts - it's great to use a fan for either heating or cooling, but remember to direct it at the ceiling or a wall rather than straight at the violets.

5. Potting Mix - Use special African violet mix. It is designed to be light and airy and drain freely, yet have sufficient moisture-holding ability to keep the plant well supplied with water. Repot regularly - twice a year, if possible, into shallow pots.

6. Cleanliness - Keep the leaves clean by brushing regularly with a soft brush, and wash with tepid water from time to time by holding the plant at an angle under a gently running tap and washing each leaf. Be sure to blot off the moisture, particularly if any water gets into the center. Use tissues or toilet paper for this. Always use clean tools and pots when grooming and repotting. Regular grooming and removal of dead leaves and flowers will all aid good health.

If all this seems a bit much, I'm sure you will see the similarity to our own requirements, and the end result of beautiful, flowering African violets makes it all worthwhile.

Good Growing!

*Reprinted with permission from the
Early Morn AV Group Newsletter, Australia*

Soil Mealy Bugs

by Barb Pershing • Cedar falls, IA

If you haven't had them, you probably will at some time in your growing of African violets.

Symptoms: poor growth and yellowed leaves caused by lack of a healthy root system (the damaged roots can't take up necessary nutrients), wilted and dying leaves, (outer rows of leaves die first), and failure to bloom.

If a plant has just become infested when you get it, it may be as long as six months before the plant shows any sign of stress from the effects of mealy bugs working on the root system. Soil mealy bugs are more mobile than we may think. If you find them in one pot, you must assume that they have travelled to all pots on the same tray/mat.

Monitor your plants by occasionally unpotting one of the group and inspecting for signs of bugs. If you have mealy bugs, you will find white powdery areas in the soil, often at the soil line and on the stem, right at the soil line. If the mealies have been working on the plant for awhile, the roots will be brown and will eventually be dead. The mealies look like small grains of perlite. If you see a suspicious shiny white oval object in the soil, touch it with the tip of a pencil. If it moves - mealy bug!

In order to cut down on the risk of soil-dwelling pests such as soil mealy bugs, when you bring new plants into your collection, it is recommended that you cut off and discard the roots, treat the crown in a mild bleach solution, and reroot the crown in fresh soil and a clean pot. This is

rather drastic, but it will cut down on the isolation period and hopefully will eliminate the worry of introducing unwanted pests into your collection.

Using the systemic, Marathon, is a precaution against an infestation of Mealy bugs. Marathon, or any other systemic must be repeated in 4 to 6 weeks. Systemics may eradicate a heavy infestation of mealy bugs but should provide a measure of protection against one occurring.

Preventative measures:

1. Discard plant if badly infected. Take a leaf, soak it in mild bleach water; start a new plant.
2. Wash hands, work surface and tools between handling each plant; keep a bucket of soapy, mild bleach water to dip hands and tools between plants.
3. Use layers of newspaper on potting tray; wrap and discard used soil for each plant.
4. Wash hands before scooping soil out of the storage container and don't hold plant over soil bucket.
5. Never reuse a pot without soaking it in a hot soapy bleach solution.

Prevention is a lot easier and less stressful than cleaning up an infestation in your collection. I know from experience!

Reprinted with permission from *The 'Bloomin' Violet*, publication of the Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar falls, IA

Signs of Trouble,

When looking at African violet plants there are a number of signs that require another look.

Wilted plants

If plant is dry, it needs water. If wet wilting is the problem it is probably due to poor drainage and rotting or other root problems. Pull plant out of pot and look at roots.

If roots are brown or black and mushy, it is root rot caused by over-watering, over-fertilizing or fertilizing when the plant was dry, compacted soil or poor drainage.

If the roots are covered with beads and knots it's nematodes. Throw plant away, wash hands carefully, and check and quarantine surrounding plants.

If there are white rice-like grains in the soil or between the soil ball and the inside of the pot it is soil mealy bugs.

Plants with dusty looking centers

These might be due to over-watering or over-fertilizing. Is the plant too wet? Is it too cold? Was the fertilizer

measured carefully?

White fluff or specks on leaves

They may be pieces of fluff or they may be foliar mealy bugs. Look more carefully and check the undersides of the leaves and the neighboring plants.

Spilled pollen on blossoms

Check neighboring plants; if their blossoms are spilling pollen too, the problem may be thrips.

Rusty looking leaves

These may indicate mites, especially spider mites.

Spots on leaves

These may be due to water, sunburn, or fertilizer residue.

Tight, hard centers

These could be due to over-fertilization or cyclamen mites.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges



Physan – One More Time

by Dorothy Schroeder

Physan keeps the algae problem down in my wick-watering containers. Physan 20® is a disinfectant and

algicide. When you read the label on the bottle it does not say anything about using Physan for plants. I don't know who discovered or started using it for plants, but I first heard about it at one of our club meetings and tried using it. The label on the bottle tells about its use in hospitals for cleaning floors, counters, tables, and many other uses to combat bacteria. It is used in households for the same purpose and for sanitizing food processing equipment. It is also used in swimming pools for algae control.

To prevent algae, mix 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. to either a gallon of plain water or mix it in with your fertilizer. Physan will prevent algae from forming on matting, trays, or water reservoirs. When I replace the water in the reservoir container, I mix the Physan and fertilizer together.

Damping off is controlled by spraying weekly with a solution of 2 tsp. to a gallon of water.

The other day I heard that you can use Physan for cut blossoms, to keep them fresh longer. Use 1 tsp. to a gallon of water. I haven't tried this yet. It would be great for those doing flower arranging, especially when you don't have enough blossoms to replace the next day at the shows.

Don't forget that it disinfects your flower pots and whatever tools you may use. Eight ounces of Physan 20 is about \$4.00, goes a long way and does the job.

I hope this explains its use a little more thoroughly. You will just have to try and experiment with your own growing conditions to see what works best for you.

*Reprinted from African Violet Leaves
publication of the Illinois African Violet Society*



Thrips

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

Where do thrips come from? When you buy a new plant, it is possible that it has thrips. Therefore, you should keep all new plants in isolation for about six weeks or more, if possible. If you are an outdoor gardener, you can bring them in on your clothes, so change your clothes and wash your hands before you start working with your plants. If you are a pet owner, thrips can hop on your pet for a ride into your house. If you exhibit, it's more than likely you will come home with thrips.

How can you tell if you have thrips? If you notice spilled pollen on your blossoms (a fine, white powder), thrips are possible. However, Optimara® and Rhapsodie® violets are known as pollen spillers. If your blossoms become streaked and spotted, this is another sign of infestation. They also attack the leaves. You can blow into the flower and see the thrips moving around.

How can you get rid of thrips? You can spray or rinse your entire plant with warm water and soap, such as Palmolive®, Joy®, etc. Horticultural oil and dishwashing soap, used as a sticker, mixed with hot water and sprayed on plants and soil is of great help. Let your plants dry off at room temperature before placing them in the window or on your plant stand.

The best thing that I have found in preventing any infestation of thrips is to take the plant out of its pot, wash all the soil off the roots, repot in a new pot with fresh soil to

which you have added 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of systemic insecticide granules. I use Science® brand. Ferti-Lome® Systemic Granules is another brand that I buy. The systemic granules are added to the pot every 6 to 8 weeks.

How are insects killed using systemic granules? The systemic insecticide enters a plant through its roots (systemic action) and is then moved through natural growth and sap flow. Working from inside the plant, the insecticide kills sucking insects that feed on the plant.

What are thrips? Thrips are small insects with rasping-sucking mouth parts, belonging to the order Thysanoptera, which means "bristle wings". They are slender, rarely as long as one eighth inch, and agile. They come in many colors, but I've only seen white, brown, and orange thrips. They feed on all plant parts (not just the blossoms) and are a serious problem to many outdoor crops as well as a problem in greenhouses. Thrips can hop from plant to plant. The injury from thrips is sometimes called "white blast," as the surface of the blooms and leaves become whitened and flecked; then the tips wither, curl up, and die. That is a serious infestation, and hopefully you will catch this problem before the plant reaches the death stage.

*Reprinted with permission from African Violet Leaves,
publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.*

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

"AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Favorite Child, Arapahoe, **Jeannette Wallace**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Dolled Up, Snuggles Red Honey; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince', **Lois Duvall**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Florida Belle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sarah McGaha**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Kay Redhorse**.

AVS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MO - Winners: Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Ness' Red Flash; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Standard: Ultra Violet Twinkle; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Puff; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Texas Teen, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Lydia Walker**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Tropicana', **Rick Milligan**. Best Design, **Marsha Loveland**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Schaaf**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Louise Constant, Namely Nancy, Wrangler's Pink Patches; Best Standard: Namely Nancy, **Melvine List**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rapid Transit, Vintage Wine, Apache Diamond, **Shirley Lumpkin**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Red Express; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Sweetheart; Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Juanita Carpenter**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad, *xCodonanthus* 'Tambourine', **Mary E. Hill**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Edna R. McCawley**. Best Design, **Jeanne Cotten**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Sutton**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Playful Rainbow, Marching Band,

Royal Commotion; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's April Storm, Cupid's Kiss, Dangerous, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Handmade, Dangerous, **Estelle Starr**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Granger's Wonderland; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Cheyenne; Best Miniature: Optimara Little White Clouds; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Merritt**. Best Trailer: Pixie Pink, **Jean Jones**.

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Apache Diamond, Double Trouble; Best Standard: Annabelle, **William Suggs**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Diamond, Lela Marie, Southern Beauty; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Grace Davis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Hallucination, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Arturo Lopez**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Texas Teen, Red Bandito, **Blanca Fuster**. Best Miniature: Dean's Love Bug; Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Oklahoma, Optimara Alaska, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, **Ruth Jones**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Bogeyman, Red Bandito; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Spear**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Sara Beth', **Shirley Gomez**. Best Design, **Nancy David**. Design Sweepstakes, **Sallie Barlow**.

CORPUS CHRISTIE AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA

Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Wisteria, Rodeo Showgirl, **Kay Bircher**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Marion's Enchanted Trail, Milky Way Trail, Cirelda, **Virginia Thompson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Ness' Satin Rose, Red Bandito; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo; Best Semiminiature: Pink Skies; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Story Talk', **Marjorie Bullard**. Best Standard: Maverick's Faded Jeans, **Liz Riggle**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Kimi Bircher**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah Steinsland**.

THE DELAWARE AVS, DE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Party Print, Victorian Flirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Party Print; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* **Punter**; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Barbara LaFashia**. Best Trailer: Santa Fe Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Best Design, **Andrea Pirone**. Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Callaghan**.

DIXIE AVS, NC - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Party Print, Kathe Denise; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Roger Peeler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Dean's Aquarius, Rob's Denim Demon, **Barbara & George McDonald**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Vanilla Pink; Cherry Glo, Persian Prince, **John Nabors**. Best Standard: Luxury Liner, **W. E. Clark**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* **Punter #7**, **Linda Abplanalp**. Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Ramona Hodges**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Mary Ann', **Phyllis King**. Best Design, **Joyce Stenger**. Design Sweepstakes, **Dee Short**.

FANCY BLOOMERS AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desir, Bertha, Dumplin'; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Shy Blue, Sassy Sister; Best in Show/Best Standard: Sonoma Ringo; Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Byron Borck**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Optimara Monet; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Heath Borck**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hippity Hop, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Pink Puff; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Everdina; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Heather Borck**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rebecca Jackson**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Favorite Child, Pride of Enterprise; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Richard Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Southern Beauty, Pink Confession, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*;

Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost; Best Miniature: Mini Mam; Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**.

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, Rodeo Country, Lady Blue; Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Delores Gibbs**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Snuggles Blue Pearl, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Standard: Kiwi Dazzler; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Jeannette Pursley**. Design Sweepstakes: **Joyce Kimbro**.

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Apache Land, Pensi Classic; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Barbara Courson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara South Dakota, Rita Hilton; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marvin Nester**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Hector, Snuggles Red Honey, **Eryth Hendershot**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Miniature: Grape Treat, **Christel Collier**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Lynne Lock**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Jenne Crum**. Best Design, **Mary Jane Dilozenzo**. Design Sweepstakes, **Stephen Jew**.

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Bertha, Mary Craig; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun Heritage, Amazing Grace, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; Best Miniature: Lemon Tart; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alex Early**. Best Semiminiature: Hot Date, **Tressie Barker**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Checkerboard', **Dorothy McCarty**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Belinda Woodruff**.

JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Red Robe, Super Duper; Best Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Little Pearl, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best in Show: Tomahawk; Best Semiminiature: Lavender Rage; Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gail Borne**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marshlands, Fantasy Splendor, Nortex's Hallmark Haven, **Barbara Radecker**. Best Gesneriad: *xCodonanthus* 'Aurora', **Celia Dazet**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dot Benge**.

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Optimara Van Gogh, King's Treasure; Horticulture

Sweepstakes, **Ken Rein**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Futuristic, **Longine Beck**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Aztec, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Elizabeth Frigstad**. Best Standard: Ness' Orange Pekoe, **Jean Ness**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea sanguinea*; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**.

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Bertha, Something Special; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*, **Steven Spachek**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Little Pro, Spin-out; Best Semiminature: Ken; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Kunzite, Optimara Little Tourmaline, Optimara Little Apatite; Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Bill Johnson**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Cathy Baumgardner**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Dee Johnson**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Alma Hummer**.

MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Kathe Denise, Chiffon Prince; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kathe Denise, **Archie Boyd**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Ocean Eyes, Picasso, **Barbara Sanderson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Precious Pink, Pink Skies; Best Semiminature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Dean's Ivory Lace; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', **Peg Phythyon**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Cherub, Rob's Scooter, Irish Flirt; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Ferguson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Beverly Jarman**.

MOONLIGHT AVS OF FORT WORTH, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Velma Lewis**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Bertha, Apache Freedom; Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Kalendar Prince'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mural Fort**. Best Semiminature: Diana; Best Miniature: Seedling 1101, **Kyle Coleman**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Harris**.

POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Ferrari, Bertha, Ruffled Skies; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeyman, California Sunset, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: California Sunset; Best Standard: Ruffled Skies, **Dorothy Kosowsky**.

Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Iris Keating**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker', **Nancy Di Paola**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Vinciguerra**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary D, Kiwi Dazzler, Sansoucy' Coco; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary D; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilee Beam**. Best Semiminature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Sue Arakaki**. Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Design, **Jacquie Eisenhut**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite, **Hans Inpijn**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Golden Dragon', **Jim Turner**.

SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: First Houston, Happy Chris, Apache Victory; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Rodeo Showgirl, Apache Victory; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Friendship, **J. C. Munk**. Best Semiminature: Teen Thunder; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Judith Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili', **Dale Martens**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

TOP CHOICE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Joelle, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Red Robe; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Dean's Legacy, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Irish Flirt; Best Standard: Joelle; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Flora Nugent**. Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Design, **Vivian Kennedy**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Annette Westbrook**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruby Parker**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Jealous Heart, Magic, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Little Pro, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Coral Luster; Best Semiminature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Knight Magic; Best Trailer: Rob's Miriwinini; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Deep Dark Secret, Ultra Violet Flash, **Peggy Walker**.

WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Picotee Petticoat, Paumanok; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Warpath; Best Semiminature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blueberry Patches, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Scooter, **Warren Barrett**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Night Light, **Clarice Byers**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Trichantha*, **Bernice Sidebottom**.



OPTIMARA

African Violets and Plantcare Products

To purchase or receive information on the entire Optimara line of African Violets and Plantcare Products, contact one of these AVSA-supporting Distributors:

Cape Cod Violetry
28 Minot Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
508/548-2798

Selective Gardener Catalog
P.O. Box 78398
Nashville, TN 37207-8398

Tinari Greenhouses
2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215/947-0144

Innis Violets
8 Maddison Lane
Lynnfield, MA 01940
617/334-6679

Teas Nursery
P.O. Box 1603
Bellaire, TX 77402-1603
713/664-4400

Violets By Appointment
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
516/589-2724



Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

"I plunked it next to the violets and followed the light and fertilizing schedule for showing violets," said **Diana Thran**, the winner of the Best Other Gesneriad award, about her very well-grown *Petrocosmea nervosa*.

She went on to say that she received the plant as a baby about 18 or 24 months ago. Initially she put it in a terrarium environment but saw it was getting insufficient light. She then decided to put it on a wicking system in a tray under the lights along with her violets. Diana cautions people to throw away the old water each month so the fertilizer won't concentrate. She also mists with distilled water. Her soil mix consists of 50% Supersoil and 50% perlite/vermiculite. Diana wears a dust mask and sifts out the fine powder in the smaller-sized perlite. She prefers small perlite rather than the larger chunks.

Diana was preparing her violets for the national show. Since the *Petrocosmea nervosa* was living with the violets, it received identical care. About 12 weeks before the show Diana began using Schultz's Superbloom fertilizer at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. In addition, she increased her lights according to the schedule for showing violets. This brought the *Petrocosmea* into excellent show condition. This was Diana's very first entry in a national convention, and we congratulate her on this exciting win!

I must add my caution. Do not attempt to treat miniature sinningias or species sinningias like violets in preparing them for shows. I had 3 trays of dead sinningias due to what I now feel was a combination of increased light and high-bloom fertilizers.

"It grows in an atrium in natural light. I take no credit for this plant. It's the variety," insists **Lynn Lombard** about *Columnnea* 'Julia', the strikingly beautiful winner of the commercial Best Other Gesneriad award. One can tell this plant is quite happy in her home. She fertilizes it from the top and lets the water run through the plant. Lynn alternates fertilizers, using about ten to twelve varieties. She runs clear water through it once in a while to leach out the salts. *Columnnea* 'Julia' has small, deep green, shiny

leaves averaging about 1 to 1-1/2 inches long. The crimson red blossoms are about 2-1/2 inches long and have a glistening shine to them. I counted as many as 17 blossoms on one stem. Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses were selling these plants in the sales room.

"It's about seven years old, and this is the first time it's bloomed," says **Jeani Hatfield**, grower of probably the most photographed entry at the show, *Columnnea* 'Broget's Stavenger.' I couldn't measure it accurately, but I'd say the variegated strands of leaves must have been four to five feet long with hundreds of bright orange blossoms. Jeani grows it in a 10-inch pot, using Canadian sphagnum peat, vermiculite and perlite. She uses Plant Marvel at the rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. She has a drip line going into the pot. It lives in a 32' x 70' greenhouse along with about one hundred other hanging baskets. Jeani is no longer a commercial grower but continues to enjoy her plants as a hobbyist.

This year's convention had some really beautiful and well-grown gesneriads. **Barbara Elkin** won Second Best Other Gesneriad with a beautifully variegated *Columnnea* 'Light Prince.' Barbara also won Best Tuberous Rooted with *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Trumpet.' I was pleased to win Best Miniature Other Gesneriad with my tiny *Sinningia pusilla*, which was grown on a wicking system using New Zealand sphagnum moss. **Jim Turner** had several well-grown *Streptocarpus* plants in pan pots, many of them hybridized by Ralph "Rob" Robinson. The advantage of using pan pots is that the plant has less of a tendency to fall over as it gets larger. I'm going to switch to that method with my larger *Streptocarpus* plants.

Rob Robinson (a very happy newlywed!) gave an excellent presentation on *Streptocarpus*. He has hybridized for shorter blossom stems which results in an excellent bouquet of blossoms, and the blossoms won't be hitting the light tubes.

I counted the gesneriad entries, and there were approximately 76 entered! An enthusiastic "Thank You" goes to the Californians who put together such a wonderful convention!

1998 AVSA AWARDS

Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

To: Iris Keating • Claremont, California

This year the Hudson Memorial Award for affiliate Leadership is presented to Iris Keating. She has been a member of the Pomona Valley African Violet Society for 22 years. She has served this society as secretary, vice-president, and president and has been the corresponding secretary and newsletter editor since 1991.

Iris has served many times as show chairman, staging chairman, show schedule chairman and classification chairman. She also gives many programs on trailers, shallow potting, growing and grooming for show, how to judge your own plants and the other gesneriads.

Mrs. Keating is also a charter member of the Foothill African Violet Society, a member of the African Violet Council of Southern California and the AVSA Judges' Council of Southern California.

Iris is a life member of AVSA and a senior judge. She has also served on the AVSA Board of Directors.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: Mary Lou Harden • Seffner, Florida

The AVSA presents Mary Lou Harden with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for serving as Convention Chairman at the 1997 St. Pete Beach Convention.

Mary Lou has been a member of AVSA for 19 years. She is a life member and a senior judge.

Locally, she is a member and past president of the Tampa African Violet Society. She is also a member and past president of the African Violet Council of Florida and a life member of Dixie African Violet Society.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: Jo Anne Martinez • Tampa, Florida

The AVSA honors Jo Anne Martinez with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for serving as Convention Show Chairman at the 1997 St. Pete Beach Convention.

Jo Anne has been a member of AVSA since 1980. She is a life member and an advanced judge.

On the local level Jo Anne is a member and past president of the Tampa African Violet Society, is president of the African Violet Council of Florida and a life member of Dixie African Violet Society.

Honorary One-Year Membership Award

To: James Smith • Dunedin, Florida

The AVSA acknowledges James Smith with an Honorary One-Year Membership Award for the eight years he authored and co-authored the column "Question Box" in the *African Violet Magazine*.

Mr. Smith is a long-time member of AVSA, a senior judge and teacher.

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

To: Rocky Mountain African Violet Council
Nederland, Colorado

For the second consecutive year, the Tinari Membership Award for the most new AVSA individual memberships during the year 1997 goes to Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. They had 26 new members and should be very proud of their accomplishment.

THE EYES OF TEXAS ARE UPON US!

Houston, 1999, should be a very large convention, and I'd like to fill all those "10-gallon hats" full of award money for the exhibitors. Please send your awards in by September 30, 1998 so that they may be published in the January issue of the *African Violet Magazine* with all of the other details of the Houston, Texas Convention.

Special requests are assigned, based on the order of receipt. Also please note from the Sacramento Convention that the AVSA now gives cash awards for all the top winners in amateur, design and commercial classes.

Cash donations must be paid in U.S. funds by check or money order made payable to AVSA Convention. Appropriate items other than cash (i.e. silver, rosettes) will be accepted. However, please do not send gift certificates. When sending an award, please include the following information:

- Donor or Name of Award

- Address of Contact Person
- Amount of award or other appropriate item
- Request for specific class or section, if available (amateur, design, commercial horticulture)

Cash awards which cannot be awarded because there are no qualified entries (i.e. no entry for specific cultivar awards) are given to AVSA. Undesignated awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no blue ribbon entries are reassigned as needed. Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series, or awards which would complicate judging, will not be accepted. All awards must be sent to the Awards Chairman.

**Mail your awards today for the
Houston Convention and Show in 1999 to:**

Linda Golubski

1416 A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015

Phone: (816) 229-2051



Showcase

Delft Imperial

Exhibited by:
Gladys Cartwright
Best Vintage Violet
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Texas Space Dust

Exhibited by:
Bev Promersberger
Best Miniature
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky





Sockeye

Exhibited by:
Dorothy Kosowsky

Hybridized by:
K. Stork

Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Lyon's June Bug

Exhibited by:
Lyn Sweeney

Blue Ribbon

Photo Credit:
Benjamin W. Nutter

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

Q: Will you tell me the difference between "Texas Style" and other types of growing systems? Several of them look the same to me.

A: "Texas Style" is a technique of planting and growing that is based on the habitat in which many tropicals are found. On the limestone shale are depressions and cavities that catch decaying leaves, sticks and other debris that offer a rich mulch in which the plants grow. "Texas Style" replaces the porous limestone with a thick layer of perlite, at least 1 1/2" for a 4-inch pot. Originally, a number of holes (an inexpensive soldering iron works very well) were made about 1 1/2" above the base of the pot at one-inch intervals all the way around. However, most larger pots now have very nice drainage holes going well up on the side, and the additional holes are no longer necessary as the perlite seems to have plenty of aeration without them. You can place the holes at 1 1/2" as a guide to your perlite level if this helps you when planting. A light, sterile soil mix takes the place of the leaves and debris and is used for planting your African violet. The potted plant is then placed on its own saucer with adequate room for watering into the saucer. Select a saucer that is at least a couple of inches larger than your pot. It's easier for most of us to use just one or two sized saucers, and I elected to have 10" and 6" as they cover most contingencies. The solution (1/4 strength fertilizer water or just plain water) is added to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2 inch, and if all of this is absorbed quickly, a small amount more can be added. (The system works well for Rex begonias and a great many of the other gesneriads as well.) The miniatures and semiminiatures are planted in the same fashion, taking into consideration the proportions and adjusting them to fit the smaller size pot. I make one change if I plan to use a reservoir for the small plants - putting the holes in the side at about one inch from the bottom all the way around for better gas exchange. This may be due to the holes in the bottom being filled with a wick and roots, causing the pot to sit more snugly on the reservoir; and since the holes are small, it doesn't have enough aeration.

Regular potting does look the same but doesn't have the perlite layer. One of the real problems with African violets is that keeping a plant soggy over a prolonged period is a sure killer. This is one of the great advantages to reducing the soil mass with the perlite layer - you are less likely to overwater.

Q: What is the best mix for African violets? I have heard that soilless mixes are best, but what proportion would you suggest?

A: This element of African violet growing seems to stir the greatest controversy among hobbyists. To start with, the problems involved make a vast difference. Whether the grower lives in the north, south, east or west is further complicated by location, such as a basement with a very stable temperature range, an east-facing sun room with good air circulation, to the room on the second floor that is much warmer or has big temperature swings. Before you feel I'm copping out, check within your own club or with growers who are having good results to see if all use the same mix. In Southern California there is a wide variety of mix recipes with excellent results for those growers. Your mix may need to be adjusted to best suit your conditions and your growing methods. The following is the mix perfected at Cornell University for all gesneriads. It is given in the original proportions that appear in Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book. This was my first introduction to growing, and the basic principle of this mix is still used with modifications for my growing conditions.

Use a 6-inch clay pot for measuring:

- 4 1/2 pots shredded imported sphagnum peat moss
- 2 1/4 pots horticultural vermiculite (No. 2 or 3)
- 2 1/4 pots perlite, medium grade
- 2 1/2 tablespoons limestone, dolomite preferred
- 1 1/4 tablespoons 20% powdered super phosphate
- 3 3/4 tablespoons 5-10-5 or 6-12-6 fertilizer

Q: On a plant of 'Dumplin', the small center leaves have a golden crust which can be scraped off but the tiny, tiny leaves are impossible to reach, and all new leaves arrive with this condition. I would like to grow this plant but do not want to have the condition spread to my other plants. I feed all of my plants with Miracle Gro 20-20-20, and my plants are wicked.

A: Without seeing the plant, I'm guessing what you have is called "fertilizer crud" for lack of a better name. This can be washed off, providing you catch it as soon as it starts and the tiny leaves are not yet damaged. This plant may dislike the particular proportions of the fertilizer and would do better with a weaker one or even with a complete rest from any fertilizing on alternate waterings. Have you tried flushing the plant once a month to wash out the salts buildup, including those from water or soil? You may need to change the water in your reservoirs to be sure the fertilizer solution is not getting stronger as evaporation takes place. As a personal preference I rotate fertilizers, using 4 different types. A 20-20-20 which is an excellent foliar spray, a 10-15-10, VF-11 0.15-0.85-0.55 as a light feeding, and 23-17-19. At show time I use a 12-55-6 to promote bloom but only at the 8th and 7th weeks prior to show and as a foliar spray for the same two weeks as well. The various companies do not seem to use the same system for computing the plant's need for trace elements, and a variety of fertilizers offer a balance.

Q: I put down a leaf from a favorite plant. The resulting babies are nice-sized plants now, but the foliage is different. One has scalloped edges that lie flat and wheel-shaped; the other also has the scalloped edges, but the leaves are wavy. The blossoms look similar, but one has the

white edge - the other does not. Should they both be labeled with the name of the mother plant?

A: Since neither of the plants fits the description in the MVL, or that of the hybridizer, they would be considered sports and should be so named. Unless they are an improvement over the original plant or are at least very attractive in their own right, it might be best to just discard them or give the plants to a person who is not interested in a correct name.

Q: Where can I find those tiny little pots to miniaturize some of my African violets?

A: On page two of the AVM is an Index of Advertisers, and a number of them offer supplies - some even list many different sizes of pots. You can send for catalogs from a number of the advertisers and choose which one has the most items in which you are interested.

Q: I took cuttings from a lovely trailer and planted two of them in exactly the same conditions. One has grown and is now covered with pretty blossoms, while the other has never formed a single bud. They are even in the same growing area, right next to each other. What could be the problem?

A: This is not all that uncommon among violets and may be the reason we now have such wonderful variety in color and leaf shapes. Violets are very unstable and subject to change without notice. Discard the nonblooming trailer and propagate from the one that blooms.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

What's New on the Web

by Wayne Donaho

New African Violet Forum

The most exciting addition to the Web for African violet lovers this month is the new African Violet Forum on Garden Web. The forum URL is at <http://www.GardenWeb.com/forums>. This forum is run by the folks at Garden Web and is in association with AVSA. It would be wonderful if you have time to check in and read the forum. There are many novice growers who are not AVSA members (and quite a few who have never heard of AVSA). Take some time and answer their questions; that personal touch is the best way to invite potential members to join AVSA.

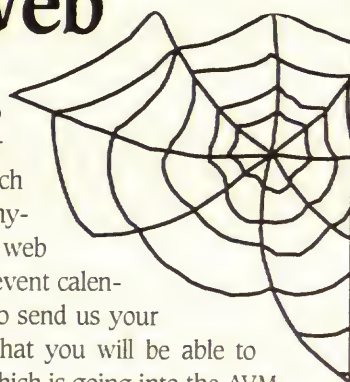
New Event Calendar

When the new web site was brought on-line, the event calendar program was, unfortunately, too hard to

use. I am pleased to announce a new calendar program which makes it much easier to enter events. If anyone in your local club has web access, please use the new event calendar on the AVSA web site to send us your events. One advantage is that you will be able to proofread the information which is going into the AVM before it is published. To view the calendar, look at the URL <http://www.avsa.org/calendar>.

1998 Convention Photos

Photographs from the 1998 Convention have been published on the Web Site. Look at <http://www.avsa.org/eshow/> to see these photos.



Showcase

Flower Child

Exhibited by:
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Commercial Display Table
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Cool Blue

Exhibited by:
Pat Richards
Blue Ribbon
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



Saintpaulia
Grandifolia #299

Exhibited by:

Jim Turner

Best Species

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



Cirelda

Exhibited by:

Gini McCanne

Best Trailer

(Commercial Specimen Class)

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from February 1, 1998 to March 31, 1998

North Texas AVC, Coppell, TX	\$10.00	Connie L. Leifeste, Woodway, TX	5.00
San Diego Daytime AVS, La Mesa, CA	837.74	Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	25.00
Balance of account, club disbanded		Marcella Wright, Niceville, FL	2.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Roselle Park, NJ	25.00	Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK	10.00
In lieu of speaker fee for Karyn Chichocki		Mrs. Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD	5.00
Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM	120.00	Doris R. Weaver, Stockton, CA	10.00
In memory of Peggy Statt		Amethyst AVC, St. Louis, MO	10.00
Diablo Valley African Violet Growers, Concord, CA	25.00	Joan Hraban, Briarcliff Manor, NJ	10.00
Missouri Valley African Violet Council	10.00	Ms. Catherine Wai, Hong Kong	10.00
Doris Jean Shaw, Adelphi, MD	15.00	Edna M. Morton, Indianapolis, IN	2.00
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ	1.00	Mrs. Mildred Mitchell, Beaumont, TX	10.00
Mrs. Walter Flowers, Defiance, OH	5.00	Joyce Stenger	4.00
Alice M. Vance, Santa Rosa, CA	10.00	John Nabers	9.00
Shirley A. Davis, Fort Myers Beach, FL	10.00	NJ Council of AV Judges, Bergenfield, NJ	50.00
Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT	5.00	In lieu of speaker fee for Edward Bradford	
Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX	25.00	Oval Office Violets and Lunch, Webster, TX	10.00
Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	10.00	Jean M. Rogers, New Bradford, MA	3.00
Grace H. Thomas, Santa Barbara, CA	20.00	Nancy Punucker, Juno Beach, FL	4.00
Grace Moeller, Ridgefield, NJ	5.00	Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI	10.00
Palma Trapp, Circle Pines, MN	15.00	Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	10.00
Mrs. Jeanette C. Wallace, Marietta, GA	2.00	Alice Watson, Cincinnati, OH	5.00
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA	10.00	B. Gayle Twiname, Beaumont, TX	5.00
Sadie K. Plauché, Baton Rouge, LA	2.00	Wong Wai Sing, Hong Kong	20.00
Alice M. Courage, Tewksbury, MA	7.00	Ralph O. Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA	15.00
Dale K. Jasaitis, Bordentown, NJ	25.00	Bruce E. Parker, Fairfax, VA	7.00
Missouri Valley African Violet Council	25.00	Michelle Myers, Floyds Knobs, IN	2.00
John J. Krouse, Plainfield, NJ	5.00	Nancy McTiernan, Gaithersburg, MD	2.00
Betty Lewis, Lawrenceville, GA	10.00	Mary Ann Kelley, Carrollton, TX	1.00
Mary Lester, Aurora, CO	7.00	Eleanor Gilson, Holbrook, MA	2.00
Mrs. Faye Wieditz, Wichita, KS	10.00	Virginia Barthelmy, Tampa, FL	1.00
Jill G. Fischer, Berkeley Heights, NJ	5.00	Lila Diamond, New York, NY	2.00
Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY	7.00		
Mildred Patrick, Fort Walton Beach, FL	2.00		

Total \$1526.74

What does it all mean?

There are so many words used by initiates into any specialty that others find it hard to fight their way through the wall of jargon. Here are the meanings of a few African violet words.

Chimera: This has to do with the genetic makeup of the plant, which is rather complicated. The outcome, however is not. In African violets it means a variety which will not propagate true from a leaf (sideshoots and flower stalks may give varying degrees of success). The flower is usually a "pinwheel", that is, each petal has a stripe down the center; for example 'Kiwi Dazzler' is a wine-red with a white stripe on each petal; 'Emiko' is pink with a white stripe.

Fantasy flowers: Those with spots and stripes of one color on a background of another color. The most common color combination has blue or purple flecks on a pink background (like 'Chiffon Print'), but others have spots, say, in pink on a blue background (for instance, 'Big Charlie') or even in color on white, or on white on color - in fact almost any combination you please.

Potting Mix: Not to be confused with "soil," or "potting soil". African violets are grown in a medium that is free of actual soil, an ingredient which packs down too heavily for the tender roots of the violets. Potting mixes are made of all sorts of ingredients, but they are typically peat moss, vermiculite, perlite and

charcoal. Call it "dirt" or "soil" if you like - just remember it doesn't contain any!

Constant Feeding: This just refers to the practice of fertilizing the plant all the time when watering. It doesn't matter how you water, but if you dilute the fertilizer in the water as you do it, then that is constant feeding.

Foliar Feeding: Fertilizing the plant by spraying a diluted fertilizer solution on the leaves. Some authorities feel that African violets take up nutrients quite well this way, others never use it. It is possible to burn the leaves by using foliar fertilizing, however, so be careful. Always dilute much weaker than you would apply to the roots. Nitrogen fertilizers are said to be taken up by the leaves more easily than others.

Neck: Refers to the trunk which remains under the leaves after outside leaves have died or have been removed. It normally looks bad, is considered undesirable, will lose points in a show, and indicates the plant needs repotting. When repotted, the "neck" should be lightly scraped and the plant potted down until the bottom leaves are on the top of the potting mix once again.

Reprinted with permission from the AV Association of Australia, Inc. publication, *The African Violet*

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO 1 APRIL 1998

Mr. Ronald H. Witchurch, Clearwater, FL	\$100.00	AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN	\$15.00
<i>In loving memory of Juienne Canfield</i>		Mrs. John Connolly, Dallas, TX.	\$25.00
Joan Hraban, Briarcliff, NY	\$10.00	<i>Towards the technology drive</i>	
Barbara Burde, Simi Valley, CA.	\$25.00	Mrs. Edward Martin, Westfield, NJ	\$2.00
<i>Towards the computer upgrade</i>		Dolores Harrington, Fridley, MD.	\$10.00
Ms. Catherine Wai, Hong Kong, China	\$10.00	Peggy Eaton, Brighton, MA	\$12.00
Northern CA Council of AVS, Santa Cruz, CA	\$25.00	Miss Charlotte Wolf, Ann Arbor, MI	\$10.00
Phoebe Hahn, Berkeley Heights, NJ	\$10.00	<i>Towards new office computers</i>	
Anita Rudolph, New Hyde Park, NY	\$2.00	James Graf, Bloomington, MN	\$10.00
The Tidewater AVS, Norfolk, VA	\$25.00	<i>In memory of Carolyn Fleisch</i>	
<i>Towards Beaumont technology program</i>		OVAL - Office, Violets & Lunch, Webster, TX.	\$10.00
Carolyn Mc Kenzie, Port Huron, MI	\$2.00	Diablo AV Growers, Concord, CA	\$25.00
Dorothy Ida Peterson, Bakersfield, CA.	\$5.00	<i>Towards new computer program</i>	
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ	\$7.00	Milwaukee AVS, Theresa, WI	\$25.00
Mrs. Edward Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ	\$7.00	<i>Apply to the computer update,</i>	
Miss Karen Taillie, Everett, WA	\$7.00	<i>in fond memory of Helen Geisler</i>	
<i>AOL AVC apply to technology drive</i>		Town & Country AVS, Grand Terrace, CA	\$25.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Tulsa, OK.	\$25.00	<i>In fond memory of Inge Mathiesen</i>	
Suzanne Whipple, Tokoma Park, MD	\$5.00	Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI.	\$15.00
Ms. Henrietta Leach, Bronx, NY	\$2.00	Thelma Henrich, Cave Creek, AZ	\$15.00
Mrs. Donald Janssen	\$5.00	Silvermine AVS, Westport, CT.	\$15.00
Kent Stork, Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE	\$10.00	<i>In lieu of workshop fee for Mrs. Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT</i>	
Jill Fischer, Berkeley Heights, NJ.	\$5.00	Linda Colburn's Lovely Stamps, Sebring, FL	\$5.00
Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada	\$5.00	Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA	\$3.00
John Krouse, Plainfield, NJ.	\$3.00	Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	\$10.00
Clifford Walsh, Norcross, GA	\$20.00	Nancy Purucker, Juno Beach, FL	\$4.00
Mr. Fred Hill, Bergenfield, NJ	\$5.00	Mrs. Kazue Sakuma, Tokyo, Japan	\$30.00
The AVS of Denver, Chapter 1, CO	\$10.00	<i>Towards AVSA computer upgrade program</i>	
Frances Jean Sunderland, San Antonio, TX	\$10.00	Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI	\$10.00
Jeff Rosenstiel, Anoka, MN	\$10.00	Dorothy Pekel, Wauwatosa, WI	\$2.00
Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN	\$2.00	Gladys Marshall, Ypsilanti, MI	\$5.00
Eleanor Gilson, Holbrook, MA	\$2.00	Wilma McCain, Mulberry, AR.	\$7.00
Nancy McTiernan, Gaithersburg, MD	\$5.00	Virginia Barteley, Tampa, FL	\$1.00
Mr. Richard L. Jarrett, Rochester, PA.	\$7.00	Carole Donnitz, Bellmore, NY	\$5.00
Eleanor K. Van Sant, Sun City, AZ	\$2.00	Hessel R. Leer, Scottsdale, AZ	\$7.00
Harold Swirsky, Glencoe, IL	\$25.00	Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL	\$5.00
<i>Towards the computer upgrade</i>		Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI	\$10.00
Connie Leifeste, Woodway, TX.	\$10.00	<i>Towards computer upgrade program</i>	
<i>Apply to technology program.</i>		Mr. Albert Maddux, Milton, FL.	\$10.00
Joanie Sleeper, Wichita Falls, TX.	\$10.00	Barbara Murdock, Jacksonville, FL	\$1.00
Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO	\$10.00	Janet King, Newberg, OR.	\$5.00
Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	\$10.00	<i>Towards new AVSA slide programs</i>	
Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY & PA)	\$25.00	Gayle O'Malley, Westlake Village, CA	\$18.00
<i>Towards purchase of new office computers</i>		<i>Apply to computer upgrade program</i>	
First AVS of Denton, Denton, TX	\$20.00	Ruby Roloff, Sacramento, CA.	\$5.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Tulsa, OK.	\$10.00	Anne Gruenfeld, Aurora, CO	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Norma Weir</i>		<i>Apply to memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Oshkosh Violet Society, Oshkosh, WI	\$25.00	Eileen C. Nelson, Longmont, CO.	\$10.00
<i>Towards Beaumont computer program</i>		<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Maryann Flick, Old Saybrook, CT.	\$5.00	J. Yvonne Hodgson, Longmont, CO	\$15.00
Marie Gail, Tucson, AZ	\$5.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Deborah Metcalf, Danville, NH.	\$2.00	Elaine Niece, Aurora, CO	\$10.00
Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX.	\$25.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
<i>Towards Beaumont office computers</i>		Dorothy J. Roesch, Lakewood, CO	\$25.00
Kay Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	\$10.00	<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Janet Robertson, Seal Beach, CA.	\$25.00	Mr. Charles A. Willis, Denver, CO	\$50.00
<i>Apply to computer upgrade</i>		<i>Towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson</i>	
Ralph Mancusi, Orange Park, FL	\$2.00	Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ	\$10.00
Marie Gullikson, Onalaska, WI.	\$5.00	<i>In lieu of judges' travel expense for</i>	
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA	\$5.00	<i>Kay & Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA</i>	
Ruby Cox, Bethany, MO	\$10.00		
Mrs. Maurice Jones, Durant, IA	\$50.00		
<i>Towards the new office computers</i>			
		Total	\$1,159.00

Showcase

"Balloon Adventure"

Exhibited by:
Cathy Cornibe
Best Interpretive Flower
Arrangement - Best Design
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



"Strike It Rich at Coloma"

Exhibited by:
Vera Parker
Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement
3rd Best Design
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky





Columnea 'Julia'

Exhibited by: Lynn Lombard

Best Other Gesneriad - (Commercial Specimen Class)

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Annual Library Message



Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

We want to thank the many people that made use of the AVSA Library materials through the past year. We have again added two new slide programs. "We Visit Sacramento -1998" highlights the lovely exhibits at our most recent convention show. "New Cultivars -1998" is the slide presentation shown at the Saturday luncheon during the Sacramento convention.

While technology keeps advancing at a rapid pace, we still find the slide programs working well for many

clubs. As growers, we are all looking for pictures of the plants in their truest colors and the slide film is still hard to beat for that purpose.

The videos that have been added to our library have received good response. Most of these are particularly aimed at the novice grower. When selecting a program for your club you might find it helpful to talk to the office staff for recommendations. They are able to give you tips on what video might be most useful for you.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request (1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet. (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) date to be shown. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS - VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
AVSA OFFICE
2375 NORTH STREET
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited numbers available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00; and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows: especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

- 183L **"VIOLETS AT THE BEACH"** (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- New** 190L **"WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998"** (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- New** 191L **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 147L **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 140L **"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African Violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 150L **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple-crowned plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L **"THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L **"TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".
- 178L **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L **30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

VIDEO TAPES

- 173L **"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L **"HUNGRY ATHLETES"** - 1997 Presentation at Atlanta convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.
- 185L **"GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- New** 186L **"TEACHING THE TRICKS"** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- New** 188L **"RAGS TO RICHES"** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".
- New** 189L **"PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES"** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$5.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L **JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L **PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- New** 192L **INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

New Items Offered By AVSA



New Design Watch (sm)\$30.00
New Design Watch (lg)\$30.00



AVSA Mugs\$10.00



AVSA Pin\$6.00
Orders of 5 or more ...\$5.00 ea.



AVSA Computer Mouse Pads\$7.50
Orders of 5 or more\$7.00 ea.



AVSA Letter Opener.....\$3.00
Orders of 5 or more\$2.50 ea.

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
1100 Huntingdon Dr. #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Granger's Carnival #4298 (Eyerdom)
Granger's Heart's Desire #3407 (Eyerdom)
Irish Angel #4054 (L. Egenites)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhapsodie® Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4335 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara® Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara® New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Granger's Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Eyerdom)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Granger's Valencia #4051 (Eyerdom)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along n/r (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin' #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen n/r (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzler #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.

(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)

We Discovered



Will Dennis



Mary Boland



John Carter



Jackie Kenney



Judy Carter



Reg & Dorothy Townsend



Linda Owens, Bill Foster and Daphne Snell



Jim Owens



Ron Davidson



Mary Walbrick



Homer & Helen Blanton



Edna Rourke



Gabriela Liberty & Ingrid Nelson

California!



Laurel & Winston Goretsky



Betty Roberson



Harriette Poss



Pat Richards



Hortense Pittman & Connie Leifeste



Iris Keating



Bill & Blossom Kanouse



Kay & Bill Lyons



Mary Lloyd



Newlyweds Olive Ma & Ralph Robinson



Fred Packer & Sidney Sorano



Jenny Daugereau & Anne Tinari



Paula Foster & Friend

ORDER FORM

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702 • 409-839-4725

ORDERED BY: (Please Print)

SHIP TO: (If different) (Please Print)

Name

Name

Address (Include Street Address for UPS)

Address (Include Street Address for UPS)

City State or Country ZIP

City State or Country ZIP

MEMBERSHIP No.

MEMBERSHIP No.

MASTER VARIETY LISTS (MVLs)

GOLD PLATED AVSA JEWELRY (GP)

___ 137 MVL #8 (1997).....18.00
 ___ 137 MVL #8 (1997) Spiral 20.00
 ___ MVL Computer Diskettes (Mac Compatible) 12.50
 ___ First Class MVL Diskette (IBM Compatible) 12.50
 ___ 420 First Class Updates.....5.00
 ___ *125 Judges Handbook Binder.....6.00

___ 201 GP Membership Pin 15.50
 ___ 202 GP Presidents Pin 22.50
 ___ 203 GP AVSA Charm 14.75
 ___ 204 GP Presidents Charm.....22.50
 ___ 205 GP AVSA Tie Tack.....14.75
 ___ 206 GP Presidents Tie Tack 21.00
 ___ 207 GP Past Presidents Tie Tack.....21.00
 ___ 208 GP Judges Charm 10.00
 ___ 210 GP Judges Guard 12.75
 ___ 211 GP Gavel/Chain 7.50
 ___ 221 GP Past Presidents Pin 22.50
 ___ 234 GP Judges Pin 10.50
 ___ 236 GP Judges Tie Tack.....10.50
 ___ 237 Gold Filled Life Member Pin 25.00
 ___ 418 50th Anniversary Pin **REDUCED** 5.00
 ___ 431 AVSA Pin 6.00
 ___ 431 AVSA Pin (5 & up) 5.00

CULTURE FOLDERS

___ 106 Regular version 100 - 400 (**per 100**) 8.00
 ___ 106 Regular version 500 - 900 (**per 100**) 6.00
 ___ 106 Regular version 1000 & up (**per 100**) 4.75
 ___ 130 Short version 1000 - 4000 (**per 1000**) 27.50
 ___ 130 Short version 5000 - 9000 (**per 1000**) 25.00
 ___ 130 Short version 10000 & up (**per 1000**) 23.50

SILVER PLATED AVSA JEWELRY REDUCED WHILE QUANTITIES LAST (SP)

___ 209 SP Past President Tie Tack.....9.75
 ___ 223 SP Presidents Pin 11.00
 ___ 225 SP President Charm.....9.75
 ___ 226 SP AVSA Tie Tack 7.25
 ___ 227 SP President Tie Tack 10.00
 ___ 229 SP Judges Charm.....4.50
 ___ 231 SP Judges Guard 5.50
 ___ 232 SP Gavel/Chain.....4.00
 ___ 233 SP Past Presidents Pin.....11.00
 ___ 235 SP Judges Pin 4.75
 ___ 239 SP Judges Tie Tack 4.75
 ___ 238 Sterling Silver Life Member Pin 10.50

MISCELLANEOUS

___ 102 Growers & Judges Handbook (98).....10.25
 ___ 109 Show Entry Tags (per 100).....7.00
 ___ 113 AVSA Guide Book (for affiliates) 1.75
 ___ 275 New Design AVSA Watch (small) 30.00
 ___ 276 New Design AVSA Watch (large).....30.00
 ___ 413 "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets" .12.00
 By Dr. Charles Cole
 ___ Back Issues ea. 3.75
 ___ 417 50th Anniversary Book 19.50
 ___ *427 AVSA Mouse Pads.....7.50
 ___ *427 AVSA Mouse Pads (5 & up).....7.00
 ___ *428 AVSA Mugs.....10.00
 ___ *429 AVSA Letter Openers 3.00
 ___ *429 AVSA Letter Openers (5 & up) 2.50

*Subject to availability

SUB-TOTAL

SUB-TOTAL

PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY IN THE U.S.; 2-3 MONTHS OUTSIDE THE U.S. BY SURFACE MAIL. PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. SERVICE CHARGE ON ALL RETURNED CHECKS - \$5.00.

SUB-TOTAL (from first column)

TEXAS residents add 8.25% State Sales Tax

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

VISA / MC accepted

Card # Exp. Date Signature

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS: PLEASE REMIT IN U.S. DOLLARS WITH A DRAFT OR CHECK ON A USA BANK.

VIOLETS ON VACATION

by Barbara Goodsell
Glenview, IL

For many years my family has vacationed for 5-6 weeks on Estero Island, FL. It's strictly an R & R vacation. All we do is step out onto a wide, sugary-white beach, go to the pool, read, and go out to eat. This past year it was 37 days of no cooking! What a life!

Years ago I contacted the AVSA Office and have my AVMs sent to me while on vacation. I didn't want to miss any shows or sales that were nearby.

The Gulf AVC was having a display/sale, and I decided to go. Being violet growers, you know that the early bird catches the worm (plant). Did I ever make a catch when I walked into that sales room! One plant jumped out at me and said, "Take me home, take me home!"

I had been looking for a plant of 'Illini Peace' for a number of years. I purchased it along with a few extra

leaves, just in case something happened.

Since I was on vacation, I also had to buy a few pots and some soil. And, I must add that my husband was very understanding about my caring for the African violets and leaves while on vacation.

When I returned home, I was curious as to how an Illinois plant ended up in sunny Florida, so I wrote to the grower. As it turned out, the plant had come from two Illinois sisters who had moved to Florida.

Now it's back where it belongs. Over the years, 'Illini Peace' has won several awards around the country. I'm going to be giving away leaves and babies to growers, and hopefully we'll have many to give away when the AVSA convention is held in the Chicago area in 2001!



A LINE ON DESIGN

by Peggy Walsh • Rogers, AR

Walking into an African violet show and seeing a room full of beautiful plants surrounded by lovely and imaginative designs is a truly uplifting experience. And, while most of us have come to see the plants, we eventually migrate to the design section because designs set off these beautiful plants and blossoms - much like mounting can set off a beautiful gem.

Because of its peripheral aspect, the design division may seem less important to the show as is her sister, horticulture. After all, we cannot have a show without plants! But somewhere in the scheme of things, our predecessors felt that designs would be an appropriate addition, and they were right. Our shows would be far less exciting without designs.

Making designs is not an easy task for most of us. It takes time, study, imagination, lots of patience, and determination. (A little talent helps too.) If a person follows the rules regarding soil, water, light, fertilizer, pest control, etc., he/she can grow show plants. Design, however, is a different matter. Yes, there are rules in design, but they are less precise. Design is an art form and therefore less easily pinned down. Horticulture is a

science and follows specific rules.

Persuading club members to enter designs for the first time is not an easy task. They are usually intimidated by more experienced designers. Because of this, there is a tendency for the same members to dominate the design sections year after year. This can lead to designs that are predictable and less exciting. As it stands now, some members enter as many as four or five designs in a show because the niches must be filled. New blood is needed to keep competitive juices flowing!

Perhaps we could encourage more members to participate in design if entering designs was made more enticing. We could start by putting up the Best of Design on the awards table. We could make awards for design winners more in line with horticultural awards. We might include more pictures of award-winning designs in the ASVA magazine, and hybridizers can be encouraged to give awards for designs using their plants and blossoms.

Designs give our shows much style and beauty. They go far in interpreting the show theme. Maybe it's time to give them a little more recognition.

Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Rosette Species

Dr. Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306

In addition to the hybridizing work reported earlier with some of the trailing *Saintpaulia* species, I have also experimented with some of the rosette or non-trailing species. While the results have not been as overly encouraging as that from the trailers, the rosette species appear to offer some interesting traits for hybridization.

As most growers of African violets know, today's cultivars can be traced to the species *S. ionantha* and *S. confusa*. A mixture of these two plants was apparently in the material sent to Germany by Baron von St. Paul. *S. ionantha* was the first species named from the material, but differences in the seed capsules later led to a second species, *S. confusa*, being identified. It is presumed that today's cultivars share both of these species in their genetic makeup.

Relatively few of the other African violet species have apparently been used in the development of today's cultivars. Miniature African violets may have been developed with the help of the miniature species *S. shumensis*, but this has not been firmly documented. The only other rosette species that is known to have contributed to the gene mixture of today's cultivars is *S. velutina*. The late hybridizer Jimmy Dates used this species in several of his plants with bustled foliage and wasp blooms. The best examples are 'Nymph Fly' and 'Pink Fly'. Both of these cultivars have the dark-colored leaves and dense leaf hairs of their *S. velutina* ancestor. Since interest in the bustled foliage and wasp bloom plants has been limited, it appears unlikely that *S. velutina* has made a significant impact in the genetics of today's plants.

Mr. Dave Rose provided me with material from some of his hybridization work with *S. difficilis*. Plants from crosses of this species with the cultivars 'Fickle Flirt' and 'Christmas Carol' share several characteristics in common. The most interesting feature of these hybrids is that they show the depressed leaf vein character of the *S. difficilis* parent. The veins are sunken into the leaves, giving the leaves a more textured appearance than that usually found in today's cul-

tivars. However, the leaves tend to be small and do not overlap each other well. The flowers are small in size and are not particularly interesting in shape or color. A great deal of breeding work would be necessary to exploit the depressed vein character and improve the general quality of the plants. I have noticed, however, that the plants are reasonably tolerant of cooler growing conditions and lower light levels, traits that might also be worth exploiting.

One of the most successful rosette species and cultivar crosses I have observed is that of *S. grandifolia* x 'Phantom Flash'. The original intent of the cross was to combine the large leaf size and heavy bloom characteristics of the species with the excellent show qualities of 'Phantom Flash'. Several of the seedlings from this cross have been promising. The large leaf size of the species parent has been inherited. The petioles of the leaves are long, flexible, and produce good layers of overlapping foliage. The foliage can be slightly tricky to shape for show, but the flexibility of the leaves makes the foliage very forgiving when it comes to accidents. The flowers are mostly semidoubles in a medium blue. Flower count is good but is more like the 'Phantom Flash' parent than that of the species. The weakest trait of the hybrids is that the flower stalks are somewhat weak and do not support the flowers as well above the foliage as could be desired. This is a character trait that could be improved with further hybridization efforts.

Another interesting cross is that of the species *S. diplotricha* Punter x an unnamed cultivar with single coral-red flowers. The hybrids have inherited foliage similar to the species parent but with fewer leaf hairs. Also, the paler shades of the hybrid blossoms come from the pale-colored blooms of the species parent. One seedling in particular has an unusual pale red-violet flower color that has overtones of coral red. Pigment testing of the flowers has not yet been done to identify the specific flower pigment response for the color, but the flower color is interesting and shows promise for further work with this species. Unfortunately, the seedlings

were all single-droppers; the double character of the cultivar parent failed to be expressed. This problem could be easily overcome by using a cultivar with full-double flowers in the cross with *S. diplotricha*, giving the offspring a higher chance for double or semidouble flowers.

The two species plants that became available to the public earlier this decade, *S. white ionantha* and *S. Robertson*, both show potential for hybridization work. *S. white ionantha*'s delicate near-white flower color should be a genetic dominant trait. Cross of this plant with darker-flowered cultivars should give offspring with pale flower shades. For example, a cross of *S. white ionantha* and a medium-blue cultivar should produce some offspring with pale-blue flowers, a color combination not found in many of today's cultivars. *S. Robertson* has light-blue flowers but also offers a large, robust growth form. This plant also tends to arch the leaf petioles away from the center of the plant, a characteristic that could help hold heavy leaves off pot rims. Hybridizers who are trying to produce large-growing plants whose leaves show heavy substance and form might do well to consider the use of *S. Robertson* in their breeding programs.

To the best of my knowledge, hybridization work has not been done with the Nguru Mountain species *S. nitida* and *S. brevopilosa*. Both of these species have only short leaf hairs, giving their leaves a fine plush or even glossy appearance. Hybridizers who desire to produce plants with a different leaf appearance might try to develop this characteristic from these two species. *S. nitida* has a semi-trailing growth habit, perhaps allowing the production of trailers with this leaf trait. *S. brevopilosa* is a relatively small-growing species, which might allow the development of semi-miniatures or even miniatures with glossy, shiny leaves. I would anticipate that a fair amount

of breeding work will be necessary to produce plants with good quality flowers, but hybridizers looking for some long-range projects might consider working with these two species.

I have been personally fascinated with the near succulent, longifolia style foliage of *S. tongwensis* and the naturally occurring variety, Sigi Falls. While Sigi Falls is generally a weak trailer or multi-crowned plant, hybrids produced from this species have already been shown to be single-crowned growers. Some of these hybrids have also inherited the Sigi Falls style of foliage. The flower characteristics have been improved in only 1-2 generations, suggesting that good quality plants with this foliage type will be relatively easy to produce.

The last rosette species I'd like to discuss is the plant from the Sylva Mather collection labeled as "Brother Paddy". This plant appears to be a new clone of *S. confusa*, but its exact species identity has not been confirmed. Brother Paddy has glossy foliage and produces numerous small, dark red-violet flowers, a unique flower color for one of the species plants. This plant can be grown as a small standard but tends to sucker easily and produce rambling multi-crowned plants. I have not yet tried crosses with this plant, but the unusual flower color suggests that it might be valuable for breeding work.

In summary, I would like to encourage the use of the rosette species as possible new genetic material in hybridization programs. The results observed from the limited attempts made to date are encouraging and suggest some of the potentials held within the rosette species. If growers of African violets continue to desire "something new", then these species should offer good materials for hybridizers to work from.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue

Sun City, AZ 85373-1926

Donations received from January 31, 1998 - March 31, 1998

Oval Office Violet & Lunch, Webster, TX 10.00
 Periwinkle Garden Club, Greensboro, NC 20.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Mrs. Mary Cundiff
 Diablo Valley AV Growers, Concord, CA 25.00
 The Town & Country AVS, Grand Terrace, CA 25.00
In memory of Jordan Engberg
 Maryann B. Flick, Old Saybrook, CT 5.00
 Chuck Bingham, Minneapolis, MN 25.00
 Mrs. G.E. Harmon, New York, NY 5.00
 Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA 10.00
 Donald Ferguson, Montgomery, AL 7.00
 James S. Graf, Bloomington, MN 10.00
In memory of Carolyn Fleisch
 Grace Moeller, Ridgefield, NJ 5.00
 Daniel Ringhand, New Glarus, WI 10.00
 AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN 15.00
 Mrs. Roy Bartel, Milwaukee, WI 10.00
 Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX 25.00
 Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD 10.00
 Alice M. Vance, Santa Rosa, CA 7.00
 Cecelia Winfield, No. Brunswick, NJ 5.00
 Mrs. Tom W. Clark, Charlotte, NC 10.00

F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Titan Falls, NJ 20.00
 Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ 1.00
 AVS of South Bay, Sunnyvale, CA 25.00
In memory of Eva Walton
 Montrose AVS, Montrose, CA 10.00
In memory of Sylvia Tanner
 Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 20.00
In lieu of a speaker's fee to Carroll Gealy
 Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 10.00
In memory of Helen Mietzner,
a charter member of our club
 Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL 25.00
In memory of Fred Moak
 Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL 25.00
In memory of Norma Leto
 Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA 25.00
 Missouri Valley AV Council, Tulsa, OK 25.00
 Mrs. Ivy Woods, Hamilton, Bermuda 5.00
 P.A. Doolittle, Yreka, CA 5.00
 Peg Phytion, Wetumpka, AL 10.00
 Betty Lewis, Lawrenceville, GA 10.00

Helen Wamsley, Pitkin, LA 2.00
 Mrs. Dorothy Maybury, Somerset, Bermuda 10.00
 John J. Krouse, Plainfield, NJ 4.00
 Mrs. Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO 10.00
In memory of Peggy Staat
 Martha Compton, Bloomington, IL 7.00
 Connie L. Leifeste, Woodway, TX 5.00
 Thistate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ 25.00
 Kathleen M. Stottle, Pittsfield, MA 5.00
 First AVS of Denton, Denton, TX 20.00
 Mrs. Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD 5.00
 Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY 10.00
 Springfield Chapter of AVS, Springfield, MO 10.00
 Virginia A. Schneider, Bremerton, WA 2.00
 Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO 10.00
 Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA 25.00
 Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA 10.00
 Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA 10.00
In memory of Ernest Thomson
 Joan Hraban, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10.00
 First Halifax AVS, Dartmouth, Canada 25.00

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

I have had a lot of action on the AVSA Most Wanted since it was last printed in the AVM. (The entire WANTED List was printed in the March-April AVM.) The following plants surfaced, and I thought you might like to know they are available.

Amethyst
Copper Tips
Coral Glo
Corpus Christie
Lloyd's Jo Ann
Katy Did - Hawley
Kilauea
Little Rascal
Mary
Mary Ann
Millie Blair

Mini Minx
Ness' Minnesota Splash
Norseman
Nymph Fly
Rob's Sailor Bill
Sarava (Fredette)
Seafoam
Suncoast Wedgewood
Sweet Lime
Tidecrest
Tye Dyed (Dates ?)

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Antique Elegance
Ballet Erica
Dominion Rose
Granger's Eternal Snow
Granger's Fashionaire
Fire And Ice (Lineberg)
Golden Rubies
Gorgeous Bicolor
Great White Way

Henry Synthesis
Just Beautiful
Optimara® Kansas
Optimara® Maryland
Pink Velvet
Regina
Rosy Frills
Summer Silk
Granger's Venetian Lace

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the commercial growers for their catalogs and their continued participation in this endeavor. Without the continued support of all the members of AVSA this project would cease to exist. Thank you one and all.

Barbara Elkin

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Raymond Russell - Lawrence, KS

- ***Blissful Lady** (8696) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single lavender pansy/darker tips. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Standard**
- ***Blue Bingo** (8697) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single light blue star/white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Blue Fuss** (8698) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Bubbling Over** (8699) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark pink star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Cherry Push-up** (8700) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double cherry red star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Do-Be-Pink** (8701) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink star. Dark green, pointed, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***Foolish Pride** (8702) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single vivid pink star. Dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- ***Jade of Rose** (8703) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double light pink star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Oh So Blue** (8704) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double medium blue star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Ray's Big Wow** (8705) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single dark lavender star. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, quilted, ruffled. **Large**
- ***Ray's Coral Dawn** (8706) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single-semidouble coral star/darker eye. Dark green, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Ray's Royal Crystals** (8707) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double plum-blue frilled star. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- ***Steel Blue** (8708) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double medium blue frilled star. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- ***Twice Spice** (8709) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/lavender fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Ultra Blue Ray's** (8710) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Double dark blue ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, quilted. **Large**
- ***Velvet Ray's** (8711) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Single cherry red star/white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Yesterday's Kiss** (8712) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium-dark blue ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

- ***Yesterday's Love** (8713) 3/4/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink frilled star/blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. **Large**

.....

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

- ***Dolores' Antoinette** (8714) 3/11/98 (D. Harrington) Semidouble pink, cream and lavender ruffled pansy. Medium green, pebbled, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

.....

Jack Cochran - Wagoner, OK

- ***Okie Easter Bunny** (8715) 3/11/98 (J. Cochran) Single pale pink stickite pansy/wide bright raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Skeeter** (8716) 3/11/98 (J. Cochran) Single light lavender stickite pansy/wide dark raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

.....

Raymond Russell - Lawrence, KS

- ***All Ready Red** (8717) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Single red star/darker eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Glitter Memory** (8718) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double fuchsia/orchid overlay, pink-green edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Glitter Ray's** (8719) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Semidouble-double rose-pink/raspberry overlay. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***Mystical Love** (8720) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double rose-pink ruffled star/raspberry overlay. Dark green, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- ***Strawberry Love** (8721) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double white and rose-pink frilled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. **Standard**
- ***Strawberry Swirl** (8722) 3/16/98 (R. Russell) Double red and white ruffled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. **Standard**

.....

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

- ***Rebel's Centennial Star** (8723) 3/18/98 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark red large star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

.....

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

- ***Night Vision** (8724) 3/23/98 (D. Harrington) Semidouble black-wine large frilled star. **Crown variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Appreciated by the Youngest

by Penny Calvert • Waterloo, IA

I have been in our local violet club now for just over a year. I am enjoying getting to know others who share in my interest, but I have noticed that there are not many younger people involved, which is a shame.

I don't seem to be as hooked as most on these blooming beauties, but that's because of many factors in my life. First, I have a horticulture background, and know living in a two-bedroom apartment that faces north means I must grow year-round with grow lights. Second, I have a husband and small boy, age three, giving me limited space in which to grow my plants.

I never seem to come away from a meeting, though, without at least one new plant. On these nights I am not quite sure sometimes who's more excited about it, me or my busy 3-year-old, Mitchell, as he thoroughly inspects the new "friend" that Mom brought home.

Going to the table where my other violets are displayed, he checks to see if our new one resembles any already there. If so, he will carefully compare them.

Mitchell is quite interesting to watch; very gently he inspects each plant, comparing their blooms and leaves without doing damage to either. He then lets me know if he likes my choice or not and then knows the drill.

Getting out a new pot and soil so the new one can be repotted at once, after I've marked and tagged the new plant, he helps water it in and puts it in its new home for a few

weeks of quarantine.

At our club's recent show, he was very excited as I showed him all the different plants and blooms, and had to promise to let him choose one before we left.

This was a difficult process with so many to choose from, but we patiently went through the show tables, examining all the ones he was interested in. He had a hard time choosing just one and was making many members of the club nervous as he studied the plants. (Granted, they were nervous that such a little guy was not just looking, but touching the plants! He was being more careful than many of the adults.)

After a good twenty minutes of searching, we narrowed his choices down to two, and he finally settled on 'Optimara Little Fluorite'. He carried it to the car and carefully held it all the way home, not losing a bloom or leaf. He went through his normal process after he got it home and was quite pleased with himself, as this was HIS violet, not Mom's!

Mitchell makes sure that I look at his plant every time he sees something new about it. When I work with my violets, he insists I look at his first. He is very proud to show others his little beauty, which shows that even the youngest among us appreciate the African violet's value.

It's this kind of enthusiasm that all clubs need, and I assure you as this little guy gets older, he will be allowed to join me even more to share in this interest.



Mitchell Calvert



Disbudding

By Marcia Lazarus



For beginners, disbudding seems to be the most difficult aspect of growing African violets. Fancy removing all those beautiful blooms you have spent time and energy trying to achieve!

Unfortunately, if you want to obtain anything close to the perfection of the plants you see on the show bench in November, disbudding *is* necessary. Disbudding simply means removing the flower stems for a set period of time and is done for the following reasons:

- To assist in the production of large healthy leaves and good symmetry. When a plant is flowering constantly, most of its energy is channeled into blooms, resulting in smaller leaf growth in the center of the plant or misshapen leaves.
- Disbudding gives you control as to when your plants will come into bloom.

Most experienced growers feel it takes 12-18 months to produce a large show plant. The plant is generally allowed to bloom on one or two stems to ensure the plant blooms "true" to description. The plant is then usually disbudded for the rest of the time. The entire flower stems are removed for the first six months, but if the stubs are left they will need to be removed when you are doing the final grooming for the show.

Plants should be checked every 10 days. Keep removing the entire flower stem until 5-6 months before the show date, (be sure to mark this date on your calendar). At this time you start to leave about 1/4 inch (0.5 cm) stub of the flower stem.

It is suggested to use long-handled scissors and carefully cut off the stalk without cutting or damaging the leaf axil where additional buds will be produced.

The timing part of disbudding is probably the most difficult as there are many variables to consider. As a general rule:

- Double blooms will be at their peak 8-9 weeks after disbudding stops.
- Single blooms require about 6 weeks to come into full bloom.

Mark the final disbudding date on the calendar and at this time start to remove any flower stems that are more than 1/8th of an inch long.

Local conditions can affect the speed of blooming. A cold spell can slow things down considerably. This can be overcome to a certain degree by increasing the length of light time by one hour. Additional heat can hurry things along, too. If your plants are coming on too rapidly, move them to the lowest/coolest shelf and decrease the time your lights are on.

Because there is so much energy going into leaf production, plants will grow at an increased rate. Therefore repotting will need to be done more often. There may also be an increase in the number of suckers, so check for and remove suckers each time you disbud.

Reprinted from the *Early Morn AV Group, Inc.*
Newsletter, Mt. Waverly, Australia



Attention Affiliates!

If your club's president has changed since September, 1997: To ensure that your club information is listed correctly in the September AVM, contact the AVSA office **IMMEDIATELY** with your new president's name and address.

AVSA
2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702
1 (800) 770-2872
email avsa@earthlink.net

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 WED	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd 1:44 pm
2 THU	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
3 FRI 6:46 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
5 SUN 6:24 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
6 MON	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 TUE	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
8 WED 3:28 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
9 THU	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 11:01 am
10 FRI 9:52 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
11 SAT	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
12 SUN 2:22 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 MON	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 TUE 5:45 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
15 WED	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 THU 8:33 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 10:14 am
17 FRI	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
18 SAT 11:18 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
19 SUN	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
20 MON	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
21 TUE 2:43 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
22 WED	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 THU 7:49 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 8:44 am
24 FRI	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
25 SAT 3:34 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
26 SUN	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
27 MON	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
28 TUE 2:15 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
29 WED	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
30 THU 2:45 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
31 FRI	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:05 am

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SAT	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
2 SUN 2:48 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 MON	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 TUE 12:18 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 WED	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
6 THU 6:31 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
7 FRI	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 9:10 pm
8 SAT 10:04 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 SUN	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
10 MON	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 TUE 12:11 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 WED	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
13 THU 2:05 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
14 FRI	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 2:49 pm
15 SAT 4:46 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
16 SUN	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
17 MON 8:56 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 TUE	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
19 WED 3:01 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
20 THU	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
21 FRI 11:22 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	New 9:03 pm
22 SAT	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
23 SUN	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
24 MON 10:02 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
25 TUE	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
26 WED 10:25 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
27 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 FRI	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
29 SAT 10:55 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
30 SUN	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 12:07 am
31 MON 9:23 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

People to People:

What Society Is All About

by Morgan Simmons
Evanston, IL

A few days ago I received a securely wrapped package from Blanche Bunker who lives in Portland, Oregon. Inside were a starter plant and two leaves of a long-time favorite African violet, 'Delft Imperial', which I had had in my collection for almost thirty years but which had finally given up the ghost. Now, Blanche and I have never met, but we became correspondents through the good graces of Barbara Elkin, who offers each reader of *African Violet* a wonderful service through her column "Vintage Violets".

These acts of generosity set me to thinking about other such outpourings of concern by fellow growers and how each of us is linked together by a common yearning for beauty and a desire to share that beauty with others. Why else would we spend months in careful preparation for a show? Or go to such lengths to procure a special plant? Or wait years to see a new hybrid come into its own?

Almost every plant in my collection has its own story. The best stories are more than accounts of twisted leaves or pests, which plants took blue ribbons, where they grow best in relation to light distribution, when they were last repotted, or what combination of fertilizer works best for the variegates. The most significant stories are the ones that relate to people. 'Pink Confession,' now in its third or fourth incarna-

tion, came from Lois Hughes who now lives hundreds of miles away. Two of my light stands are another evidence of her gracious generosity. 'Cirelda,' which fills an eighteen-inch container, along with 'Granger's Wonderland' and 'Phantom Flash', were given to me as starters from Jay and Barbara Corbett who have retired to Florida. 'Jazzy Jewel' 'Favorite Child' and 'Pueblo' bring back memories of a trip to Genola Cox's Violet Express and the stunning array of plants which she offered. 'Candy Swirls' grew from a leaf given by Steve Covolo. The list goes on and on.

No doubt, each of you has a wealth of memories related to your collection, so when you next encounter your plants, remember their origins and give thanks for the people who have made them a significant part of your life. Better still, think about ways you can extend the process of sharing, which after all, is at the heart of what a 'society' is all about.

Blanche Bunker, who because of her thoughtfulness bears no relation to another Bunker named Archie, and I will probably never meet in person, but she will be the first to know when 'Delft Imperial' puts out its first bloom. I also have a friend eagerly waiting for one of the babies from those two leaves which made the trip from Portland, Oregon to Evanston, Illinois.

In Memory

Helen Leone Mietzner

Helen Leone Mietzner, 90, a charter member of the Ventura County African Violet Society, died February, 1998 following a brief illness. An active member for many years, she was always willing to share her knowledge and enthusiasm. She was also a talented painter of floral miniatures.

Ernest Thomsen

Ernest Thomsen, a member of Ventura County AVS since 1981, died in January, 1998. He and his family staged many of the club's shows and gardens at the Ventura County Fair. A very competent carpenter, the club used some of his staging props numerous times. Ernest was always an able helper to members of VCAVS.

Ralph Reed

Ralph and his widow, Charlyne, who won the AVSA Bronze medal in New Orleans in 1980, were members of AVSA for many years, attending their first convention in Dallas in 1964. Owners and operators of the House of Violets in Camden, Arkansas for twenty-five years, they attended many conventions. They also entered commercial display tables many times, exhibiting their many hybrids.



Tour Time

by Jim Owens
Columbus, OH

Having returned from the 1998 AVSA convention in Sacramento, I can only say ... what a time we had!

Those Ohio State AVS members attending the convention were Betty and Vernon Harris, Doris Palm, Elaine Gordon, Gwen Goodship-Patience, Doris and John Brownlie and Linda and Jim Owens.

Monday started off with a gold mining tour. We actually panned for gold and ate a noon miner's meal, which was valued at sixty dollars during the gold rush. All day, and nary a person struck it rich, although Mary Boland (Virginia) did get two or three nice nuggets. The rest of us got flakes, and a couple of people each got two or three garnets. All in all, we had a lot of fun.

Those who did not pan for gold tried to strike it rich in Tahoe. I did not hear of anyone who hit it big there either, but they tried and all had fun. Cynthia De Correa (Panama) had never seen snow. So, you guessed it, on the way we stopped the bus and let her feel snow! Cynthia said it did look like the pictures she had seen.

Tuesday found some of us going to Old Town Sacramento. The fact that the shops did not open until ten o'clock in the morning did not stop us from our appointed rounds. 'Chatty Kathy', our excellent docent, imparted her knowledge of Sacramento and its buildings to us in a tour of the city. (Thanks to Barbara Elkin who arranged for the docent at her own expense.)

Ten Californians headed out to the Highway Patrol Academy for a personalized tour by a retired Chip officer and AVSA member. Not having enough to do that day, ninety hearty souls headed back to Old Town for a three-hour dinner cruise aboard a riverboat made famous by John Wayne. The food was excellent and plentiful; the 'above deck', cool and pleasant.

Wednesday found some of us at the Davis Arboretum. After an interesting visit to this attraction at the University of California in Davis we headed straight to the Jelly Belly factory. We toured the factory and sampled these marvelous beans. Pounds, possibly tons, of Belly Flops (those little production mistakes) were purchased and lugged home for our enjoyment. Others went to the Empire Mine, queen of the gold mining era in California, to view the mine, it's equipment, the mansion and beautiful flower gardens. After that they ventured on to Nevada City, a place with lots of shops and restaurants.

Thursday was the big tour day. Six hearty souls revisited the American River to try their luck panning for gold. The rest of us, numbering one-hundred-eleven ventured into Napa Valley. Thanks to AVSA President Esther Wells and Bobbie

Peters (Austin) for taking on the role of tour assistants. The help was much needed and appreciated. Our first stop, culminating after a two-hour bus ride in the rain, was the Petrified Forest. Our buses dropped us near the entrance. The pouring rain didn't stop us from walking the trails and descending upon the gift shop. Afterwards, we stopped in Calistoga for lunch, then traveled to the geyser. Old Faithful of California was gushing up every ten minutes due to the rain. (Normally it spews water every forty minutes!) We were fortunate because we had a shelter from the rain so we could watch her blow. Later, because of time constraints, we decided to send one bus to Merryvale Vineyards and the other to Sterling Vineyards. Wine tasting, the part of the trip (no names) most of us waited for, was here at last. I am sure everyone enjoyed this very much. (Now, if only this cork puller I bought will open Pepsi bottles.)

We all very much enjoyed the fellowship of the tours and look forward to Houston, Texas next year. Please direct your comments about the tours to Jim Owens, 1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43228, phone 1-614-876-1805 or e-mail Jim_Owens@msn.com.

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:

*Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022*

NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC 3.00 5.00 12.00 20.00 80.00

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer 2.50 4.50 9.30 17.10 80.00

4" Wh/Gr With saucer 3.60 6.50 13.90 25.60 120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes Bl \$1.75 \$15.00

#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D Bl \$1.75 \$15.00

Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D Clr \$1.25 \$11.00

Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D Clr \$1.75 \$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, 1 gal. \$2.00

vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special 2 gal. \$3.50

FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but 1 gal. \$2.00

contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets) 2 gal. \$3.50

PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine) 1 gal. \$2.00

VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine) 1 gal. \$2.00

CANADIAN PEAT - Milled 2 gal. \$3.00

DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix 2 lb. \$1.75

GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5) 2 oz./\$1.75 6 oz./\$3.25

SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10) 5.5 oz./\$3.00 12 oz./\$4.50

SUPERTHRIVE 1 oz./\$3.75 2 oz./\$4.75 4 oz./\$7.75

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14) 8 oz. \$3.00

VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17) 8 oz. \$3.00

PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17) 8 oz. \$3.00

BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20) 8 oz. \$3.00

HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15) 8 oz. \$2.00

GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20) 8 oz. \$2.00

DYNA GRO FERTILIZER

Dyna Gro -7-9-5 11 oz. \$6.25

Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster 16 oz. \$8.50

11 oz. \$6.25

16 oz. \$9.75

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY 24 oz. \$7.75

SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules 5 oz. \$5.00

MALATHION 50 8 oz. \$4.50

ROOTONE F - Rooting compound .4 oz./\$2.00 2 oz./\$4.25

CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use 12 oz. \$4.75

Concentrate 24 oz. \$10.50

1600-X-CLUDE 16 oz. \$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV

P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602

(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

**3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045**

VIOLETS ETC.

Bonnie Schmidtkofer
813-468-9457

1011 Wood Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

**African Violet Leaves
Gesneriad Cuttings**

**Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.**

Mail Order Only

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Starter plants will be \$2.25 ea. Leaves \$1.25 ea.,
Yellow Violet Leaves \$1.50, Plants \$4.00. List \$1.

I expect this to be my last year to ship. Also, shipping season will
be short so please order early. U.S. Ship Only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS

15980 W. Warden Road, Omaha, Arkansas 72662



PAT'S PATCH

Home of "Buckeye Beauties". Specializing in
variegated standards and many "Hard to Find"
varieties from "hobby" hybridizers who grow for show.

Also for 1998 - 40 exciting imports from Australia. Leaves only.

List - \$1.25 cash or stamps only, please.

P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew

Phyton[®]
27
BACTERICIDE & FUNGICIDE

Effective • Invisible • Systemic



For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733

HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards
Lots of Oldies Plus New Varieties
Fresh Cut Leaves - Starter Plants
State Inspected and Certified
Shipping United States Only*

1998 List \$1.50 payable to:
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1998
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

AFRICAN VIOLET SELF-WATERING POTS

DESIGNED BY MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

15 UNIQUE DESIGNS, 3 INDIVIDUAL SIZES, SOUTHWESTERN,
COUNTRY, AND CREATIVE STYLES, HANDCRAFTED AND
HANDPAINTED - MADE IN USA

CATALOG \$2 (REFUNDABLE WITH ORDERS OF \$25.00)
OR VISIT US ON THE WWW AT <http://www.13.pair.com/mudhole>

"Now Available At Participating Home Depot Stores"

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS

870 RESEARCH DRIVE, #5 PHONE (888) 549-8149
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262 FAX (800) 549-3837
VISA, MC, AMEX ACCEPTED

episcias

Our
First
Year

*A & W
VIOLETS*

Leaves and
Starter Plants

violets

Free
Price
List

8704 E. 92nd Pl. Kansas City, Mo. 64138



OVER 800 VARIETIES

List, \$1.50, Refundable

ORDER NOW FOR FALL SHIPPING!

LEAVES AND SOIL MIX ONLY

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
(516) 589-2724



The Leader in Full Spectrum Plant Lighting!

Independent laboratory testing proves that Verilux lighting provides the closest spectrum to natural sunlight. Our unique phosphor blend is the most stable on the market. Engineered to retain its true color for a minimum of 6,000 hours!

- ***Experience premium plant growth & extended bloom***
- ***Provides even distribution of red light for quick growth and flowering, and blue light for compactness***
- ***Quality light enhances the colors of plants without distortion!***

Verilux plant lighting is available in fine catalogs such as GARDENER'S SUPPLY, WORM'S WAY, AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, and THE HEALTHY LIGHTING CATALOG.

***Also available at
fine garden centers
everywhere!***



Verilux®

9 Viaduct Rd. Stamford, CT 06907

Phone: (800) 544-4865 • (203) 921-2430 • Fax (203) 921-2427

E-Mail: Verilux@Ergolight.com • Internet: www.ergolight.com



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metrik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687



Susan's Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants
Catalog \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
desertviolets@theriver.com

(520) 326-3057

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



New & older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1998 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$36 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets

AD EXPIRES 09/30/98

SUMMER!

SUMMER!

SUMMER!



TOO HOT TO SHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST! A GOOD TIME TO GET YOUR FALL ORDERS IN!

We have a good supply of plants still available of all this year's favorites.

A sampling of our little ones: Rob's 1998 Varieties, Dean's Rosalie, Dean's Freckles, Pittman's Cool Blue, Gleeful Elf, Ness' Mystique, Pixie Grin, ACA's Pink Pet, Georgene.

A few of our standards. ACA's Coral Beauty, Croteau's Coraline, Hancock's Buckeye Cherry Pink, Ness' Blueberry Puff, Stork's Gemstone Halo, Suncoast Blue Cranberry.

Trailers: First Robin, Shiawasee, Snowy Trail, My Smokey Trail, Rob's Boolaroo

These varieties and many more are described in our 1988 catalog available for \$1.00.

**LEAVES OF SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - 24 CURRENT AND PREVIOUS RELEASES
\$20.00, OR 50 FOR \$38.00.**

SHIRLEY'S CHOICE 24 CURRENT RELEASE \$24.00

Priority shipping on leaves \$6.00. Texans add 7 3/4% tax.

**PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR \$3.75 EACH PLUS \$7.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING
ON UP TO 6 PLANTS. OVER THAT, ADD 40 CENTS PER PLANT.**

Make check payable to Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX. 78221
210-923-1093

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality hybrids since 1954

To receive a copy of our 1998
please send
\$3.00 U.S./\$5.00 International



Visit our web site at
www.lyndonlyon.com

Home of the 1998 Award-Winning New Introductions

AVSA Convention - Sacramento, CA

Best New Introduction: Ms. Smarty Pants

2nd Best New Introduction: Hula Hoop

3rd Best New Introduction: Little Chatterbox



African Violets • Gesneriads • Orchids • Exotic Houseplants • Hanging Baskets

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329
315-429-8291



Oyama Planters

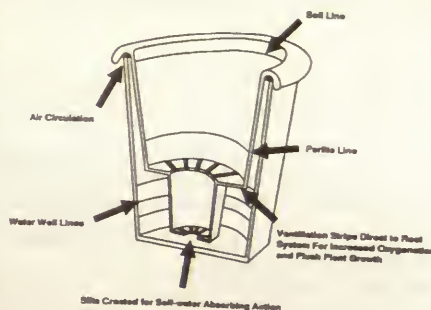
White, two-piece, self-watering pots made especially for violets. Approved for AVSA shows. Made of heavy duty, high quality, leakproof and shatterproof plastic. Outer pot has lines to show you when and how much to water. Inner pot holds the plant and sits down in the outer pot. Fill the narrow tube of the inner pot with perlite. This perlite will slowly pull water up to the plant. Provides excellent aeration to prevent root rot problems. No Wick! Planting instructions included. Five sizes. Dimensions are at the mouth of the inner pot. Prices subject to change without notice. 6" size not shown.

2.5" Oyama Planter, \$2.19 ea., or 12 for \$21.89; **3" Oyama Planter**, discontinued by manufacturer;
3.5" Oyama Planter, \$2.99 ea., or 12 for \$29.99; **4" Oyama Planter**, \$3.19 ea., or 12 for \$30.19;
5" Oyama Planter, \$3.89 ea., or 12 for \$36.39;

Shipping Costs: Orders for less than \$10, add \$5.50; orders for more than \$10, add \$6.50. Shipping via United Parcel Service in the contiguous 48 states. All others (domestic or foreign) via US Mail at actual cost. Colorado shipments add 3% sales tax.

Checks, Money Orders, MasterCard, VISA, and Discover Card accepted. Mail your order or phone (303) 761-1770 during shop hours: 10 AM to 5 PM (Mountain Time) Monday or Wednesday thru Saturday. Closed Sunday & Tuesday. Fax (24 hours a day) (303) 762-1808. Free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list sent with order or send for a free copy. In business since 1969. Visit our web page at:
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase.

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110





P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

**GARDENING
SUPPLIES**

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

- ♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:

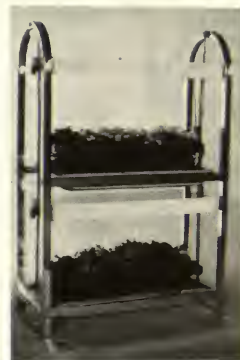
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L x 12D



Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

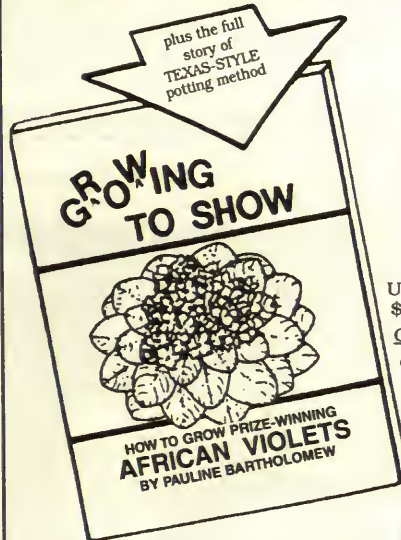
Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



plus the full
story of
TEXAS-STYLE
potting method

A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Liquid Health Insurance for Violets

7¢ per gallon!



MULTI-PURE™

Drinking Water Systems
Independent Distributors
Wendy & Joan Crager

**(800) 330-9480
(888) 749-6011**



Certified
Model MP750B

Used by AV Show Winners



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10,

also CHIMERAS. Latest releases from MARIE BURNS, DATES, BARBARA ELKIN, BILL

FOSTER, LYNNONS, D. HARRINGTON, KENT STORK, WRANGLERS and much more.

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00. Gifts, cards, and notes available.

NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

email violets@cape.com - Web page www.cape.com/~violets

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

1	6	12	25	50
4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75	
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00	
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20	
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00	

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of

Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone

Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz. 8 oz.
5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60 \$3.00
		1.60 3.00
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	4 oz. 12 oz.
		1.25 3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz. 16 oz.
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25 3.00
Dolomite Limestone		1.25 3.00
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz. 2 lbs./\$1.75
	No. 6 Medium	1.75 3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts. 16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75 5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		1.75 5.00
		432 cu. inches/\$3.75

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide

\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$3.97

2 oz. - \$4.55

4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



Air Express 5 pack: \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive 5 Little Jewel® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. These minis are easy to grow!

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



NURSERY CO., INC.
ESTABLISHED 1843

1-800-446-7723

Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Light tubes, fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pat® plus orchids, hibiscus, plumerias, bromeliads, and supplies.

Linda's Heavenly Accents

P.O. Box 690
Cordova, NC 28330-0690
(910) 895-8200
station@infoave.net



Let us **Accent** your collection!
1998 releases from Robs Mini-o-lets, Hortense Pittman, Lyons, Kent Stork and over 1000 standard and large favorites!

Over 400 minis and semiminis.

New List \$1.00 refundable with order.

Spring Special

25 Fresh Cut Leaves, all different, labeled, \$12.50 p.p.

50 including some new, \$22.50 p.p.

"our choice of varieties, your choice of types."

Club Orders Welcome

Join our Happy Customers.



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	4.95	17.95
10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	7.95	24.95
10 Species	7.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	7.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	7.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Columnea	7.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	7.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO! STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCIAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS' SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"

bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil

dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors

growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets

beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)

6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

Florida Registration number: 47219602



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666



JIM WILDMAN

133 Rosemont Drive
Syracuse, NY 13205

Standards, Minis, Trailers - express shipping available year round for cold climates after Oct. 1 - before April 30th at extra charge.

CATALOG \$1.00 - Telephone - 315-492-2562
African violet leaves & supplies

SPECIALS

12 Leaves, my choice - \$15.50 postage paid
24 Leaves, my choice - \$27.00 postage paid
50 Leaves, my choice - \$52.00 postage paid

Over 30 varieties

EPISCIAS ONLY

send for a free price list
512-467-7553

Cuttings available

6 starter plants, my choice

\$15.00 + \$5.00 postage & packing

Toni's Home Nursery
1112 Taulbee Lane
Austin, Texas 78757

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes



Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers, Baby Begonias, and various gesneriads list available, January 1998, \$2.00, refundable with 1st order.

7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to The Gloxinian magazine (four issues) plus a copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:
AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA

Join
Today!

Cryptanthus *the Dazzling Earth Stars*



are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
OF CANADA**

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)
Sample magazine \$3.50
Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Bluebird Greenhouses
Apex, NC
At the Peak of Violetry



Send \$1 for catalog. Open 9-12 weekdays.

**4821 Jessie Drive
Apex North Carolina 27502**

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie@ibm.net
<http://RTPnet.org/~avsa/bbhome.htm>

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00
Evergreen Violets
P. O. Box 49534
Blaine, MN 55449

VIOLETS STANDS

4 tier, 16 tray, new \$600, now \$350.
Two smaller stands, 4 tier, 8 tray, new \$300, now \$150
(303) 794-1400

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). To receive 500 labels, mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label above. Orders will be submitted every time 30 are acquired.



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998!

Available now for shipping only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

Plus 2 Spectacular New Chimeras!

ROB'S LUCKY PENNY. Very rare, one-of-a-kind variegated foliage! Sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eye, over tiny, pointed fol. w/very unusual variegation - like leaves of euonymus w/very broad, irregular white margin; variegation is totally insensitive to heat; mini (\$10 - limited supply)

ROB'S THINGAMAJIG. Tremendous! A must-have, and sure to be a favorite; pink sdbls. /w/prominent blue pinwheel stripes; excellent, dark var. foliage; excellent mini showplant (\$10)

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including "Rob's Sarsparilla" best new intro at '97 AVSA

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S MISSY. A truly lovely plant; large fringed lt. lavender w/cream throat; great grower and bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOONLIT SKY. White w/dark blue throat and lower lobes edged in white; great symmetrical foliage; profuse

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S STARDUST. Extremely unusual! Large purple-black blooms w/distinctive gold 'glitter' salted on lower lobes; must see to believe; very different.

BRISTOL'S SUZY QUE. Perhaps my favorite; never-ending masses of fully dbl. white blooms w/med. lilac-blue lower lobes edged in white held in bouquet above foliage; fantastic

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus dozens of other favorites

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

*Summer With Its Colors Bright,
Brings Our Favorite Plant In Sight.
Violets Now In Every Hue, Helps Reveal Interest Anew.*

Summer Special ...

*Large fully grown African Violets in many Standard and Optimara Varieties.
All in 3" or 4" pots. Assorted - our choice (one of a kind sent).
5 for \$21.95 postpaid 10 for \$36.95 postpaid*

ALL TIME FAVORITES AT \$2.49 Each

Ness' Bangle Blue, Billy Penn, Grand Duchess, Nortex's Hallmark Haven,
Morning Thunder, Pink Hill, White Disco, Granger's Wonderland.

CHOOSE FROM OUR POPULAR - PRICED VIOLETS AT \$2.95 Each

Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Cherries 'n' Cream, Lavender Sunrise, Pink Cameo,
Plum De Creme, Red Robe, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Toreador.

RECENT INTRODUCTIONS AT \$3.95 Each

Bianca, Hot Spot, Luminescence, Sunrise Coral.

OPTIMARA INDIAN SUMMER SERIES AT \$2.95 Each

Little Apache Girl, Little Comanche Girl, Little Inca Girl, Little Seneca Girl, Little Sioux Girl.

TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION MAY WE SUGGEST:

TINARI'S AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM

Properly blended growing medium the same used in our greenhouse operation,
pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart poly bag. zone 0-1-2	\$12.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag. zone 3-4-5	\$13.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag zone 6-7-8-9	\$14.95 ppd.

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

OPTIMARA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD - An excellent formulation of nitrogen, phosphate,
and potash 14-12-14. Each box contains 15 pre-measured packets. Simply mix one
pre-measured packet in one gallon of water. \$2.49 per box with any order.

Send For 1998 Color Catalog \$1.00

Packing and Postal Costs:

First number in your zip code indicates
zone you should use.

Zone 0-1-2	\$5.95 per shipment
Zone 3-4-5	\$6.95 per shipment
Zone 6-7-8-9 . . .	\$7.95 per shipment

CA and all customers West of MS are served
best via UPS 2nd DAY AIR. Please include
an additional 60¢ per plant over postage
stated for this service.



Tinari
GREENHOUSES
Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144 • Fax (215) 947-2163

DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

African Violet

OK 1
A 3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October 1998

Volume 51

Number 5



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 955 Mission Hills Dr., New Braunfels, TX 78130-7213.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October

Volume 51

Number 5

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LIBRARY

SEP 07 1998

GARDEN LIBRARY

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Index of AVSA Judges, Affiliates, & Commercial Members - 1998	Center Insert
New Items Offered by AVSA	5
Announcement - Hortense & Sundown Pittman	7
411 I Hoped I was Wrong - Hal McCain	10
1998 LSAVC State Convention - Dolores Gibbs	10
Best In Show, Next Time! - Dorothy Kosowsky	18
AVSA Commercials:	
A Closer Look - A Review - David Buttram.	20
More News on	
Folier Feeding - Leta Moser & Dr. Jeff Smith	26
Blake's Aunt Doris - Blake Mayfield	31
African Violet Nutrition - Dave Neal	34
Growing African Violets in Hawaii - Hector Wong	38
Did You Know? - A. Nonny-Mousse.	39
Take a Plant to the Office - Joyce Stenger	40
Denver's 50 Years of African Violets - Janice Sorensen	41
Join the AV Connection Mail Group - Lynda Welchel	45
Minutes of AVSA Annual Meeting	47
"Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet - Ellen Wass Beckerman	49
Placing African Violets Under the Lights	53
Planting by Moon Signs	54

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's message - Esther Edwards Wells	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	6
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	8
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	11
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	12
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	13
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	14
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck.	16
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens.	17
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	19
In Memory	27
Showcase (1)	28
AVSA Affiliates - Bev Promersberger.	30
Showcase (2)	32
Showcase (3)	36
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondan.	42
AVSA & Today's Technologies - John Carter.	46
Statement of Condition	47
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin.	48
Registration Report - Iris Keating	51
Coming Events	52

CONVENTION

Partner, Join The Lone Star Violet Round-up!	24
Awards Needed For	
1999 Houston Convention - Linda Golubski	46
1998 AVSA Convention Commercial	
Display Tables - Ruth Goeke.	50

COVER

Ms. Smartypants
Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Hula Hoop
2nd Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Little Chatterbox
3rd Best New Introduction
1998 AVSA National Show

Hybridized and Grown by
 Sidney Sorano,
 Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

A & W Violets 56
 Acree Creations 64
 AGGS 61
 American Orchid Society 61
 AV Enterprises Press 60
 African Violet Note Cards 61
 AVS of Canada 57
 AVSA Address Labels 61

B

Bayou Violets 64
 Belisle's Violet House 57
 Bluebird Greenhouses 57

C

Cape Cod Violetry 58
 Cryptanthus Society 57

D

Desert Violets 56
 Dyna Gro. 57

E

Evergreen Violets 64

F

Florals of Fredericks 64

H

Hattie Baggett's
 African Violets 64
 Herbal Garden Ceramics 57
 Hobby Greenhouse 57

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 63

J

JF Industries 63

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents 64
 Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses 60

M

Mighty Minis 63

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Patch 56
 Pat's Pets 63

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets
 Inside Back Cover
 Rozell Rose Nursery &
 Violet Boutique 56

S

Shirley's House of Violets 56
 Sonja's AV's 59

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 61
 Teas Nursery 60
 Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
 Travis' Violets 59

V

Verilux 55
 Violets by Appointment 59
 Violets, Etc. 63
 Violet House 62
 Violet Showcase 59
 Violet Stands 64
 Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses . . 64

W

Jim Wildman 64



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
 email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
 email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
 email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
 email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
 email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
 email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
 1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
 email: rumsey@earthlink.net

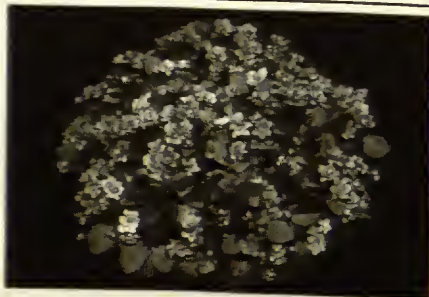
Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
 email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
 email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
 email: floyddl@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
 email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

This summer's extreme weather has been quite a challenge for many of our AVSA members. While many parts of the country have experienced extreme heat for a prolonged period of time, others have had to deal with flash floods and fires. One member reported a monthly electric bill of \$425 during the summer heat. For us, the most extreme was 90-mile-per-hour winds during a severe thunder storm. Damage ranged from very large trees completely uprooted, severe roof damage, radio towers bent in half, destroyed field crops for area farmers and power outages of up to four days. We hope that those suffering from the extreme heat will have had a break in the weather by the time you receive this issue of the African Violet Magazine.

I am pleased to report that Jenny Daugereau was promoted to Office Administrative Coordinator during the AVSA Convention in Sacramento. Jenny has worked in the AVSA Office in Beaumont for almost four years and is assisted by Office Secretary Tammi Gotcher. Both Jenny and Tammi are eager to assist you, our members, with your orders for AVSA products and publications, membership and other questions you may have.

The minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting in Sacramento are included in this issue of the AVM. Copies of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting may be requested from the AVSA Office in Beaumont. Highlights of the business transacted were included in my letter in the July issue of this magazine. Many of our Committee Chairmen and Board Members have been quite busy with various AVSA projects during the last few months. Some of those projects include the annual MVL Supplement, new items from the Ways & Means Committee, additions and improvements to the AVSA Web Site, and further improvements to the computer system in the AVSA Office, to name a few. We appreciate the time our Board members devote to AVSA.

Several repairs and routine maintenance projects, such as painting and replacing sidewalks, are planned for the AVSA Office in Beaumont this fall. Donations to assist with these projects would be helpful and may be sent to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

Some of the recent additions to the AVSA Web Site include a new and improved calendar for posting coming events. Affiliates can easily post details of upcoming shows and sales directly to the Web Site. Therefore, events may often be listed on the Web Site before they appear in the AVM. The Affiliate listings on the Web Site continue to be updated. Many affiliates have found the listing on the Web Site to be helpful in getting information to prospective new members. If information is not listed about your affiliate, just send a message to <clubs@avsa.org>. Keep watching the Web Site for the Christmas Store, a new AVSA Shopping Cart, and a brand new Screen Saver featuring photos of many of your favorite African violets.

In addition to all of the information offered on the AVSA Web Site, there are several discussion forums on the Internet devoted to African violets and the other gesneriads. See the listing on page 45 in this magazine for the specific Web addresses.

Now is the time to start preparing for the 1999 AVSA Convention in Houston next April. It should be an outstanding convention with a variety of activities for African violet enthusiasts. The show is always one of the highlights of the convention. Why not select some plants now to start grooming for the convention show?

Happy growing and showing,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net



Recent thunderstorms have given us a break from the dry, hot summer down here in Texas, but the plants in my office have really suffered. I've heard from many of our members who are looking forward to the cooling of autumn, as are their violets, and my guilt over the condition of my own plants has lessened a bit.

For those of you who have never been to the AVSA Office in Beaumont, you may have an opportunity to tour the building and some notable landmarks in this area if you come to the AVSA convention in Houston next April. Tentative plans are underway to bring a tour to Beaumont, (about an hour from Houston) and if my plants don't look a whole lot better, they'll be moving to my house for a few days when the tour is scheduled.

In this issue, look for more of those beautiful plants from this year's convention. I'm so glad **Winston Goretsky** agreed to photograph our winners, and if we're lucky, he'll help us out again in the future. I also hope more of you will follow **Patt Harris'** example and submit slides of plants you've hybridized or grown, to be featured in the AVM (see Patt's hybrid, 'Edee', in full color on page 33).

On page 20, treat yourself to a very interesting, often amusing, article by our "AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look" columnist, **David Buttram**. I know you'll enjoy a glimpse of my good friend David's adventures as he crossed the country for the past 13 years, interviewing our commercial growers.

Those of you who missed the convention have an opportunity to read information from one of the interesting presentations given in Sacramento. **Dave Neal**, of Dyna-Gro explains "African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general)", Part 1, on page 34 of this issue. Watch for Part 2 of this article in the November/December AVM.

Even if you attended the convention in Sacramento, you'll want to read **Ruth Goeke's** article on page 50. Ruth goes into detail about the lovely plants exhibited in her description of the "1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables".

For those of you interested in the Internet, read **Ellen Wass Beckerman's** article, "'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet" on page 49. Also, on page 45, **Lynda Welchel** announces a new Internet mail group, the African Violet Connection, where enthusiasts get together to share AV information and ideas. There are several of these informative mail groups out there, and we've provided a list, with addresses, at the bottom of the same page.

Kent and Joyce Stork address the problem of necks, in *For Beginners*, (page 14), and on page 7 be sure to read the announcement from **Hortense and Sundown Pittman**, explaining why they've scaled down their commercial business.

Our friends at Verilux have a new toll-free number: (888) 544 - 4865. Contact them with questions, and see their ad on page 55 of this issue.

Starting a new club is a lot of work and an adventure. Two of our members want to get a new club started in the far west suburbs of Chicago, IL, and are having an informal get-together in Naperville on September 18. Get in touch with **Dixie Williams** (630) 904 - 1698, or **Andrea Worrell** (630) 515 - 1151 if you're interested in joining.

I recently received a new video tape from our friends at the **Tanzania Wildlife Fund**, and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group. This brief video shows the terrific success in the effort to save the Eastern Arc rain forests in Tanzania, native home to African violets. AVSA continues to support this worthwhile cause, providing a complimentary ad in each issue of the AVM. TWF thanks all of our members who have contributed to the success of their conservation projects and will continue to provide us with information of the *Saintpaulia's* homeland as it becomes available.

If you have an idea for an article, or a topic you would like to see covered in the AVM, please let me know. Or, if you remember a past article that you feel would be of particular interest to our newer members, I'd like to hear your suggestions.

New Items Offered By AVSA



New Design Watch (sm)\$30.00
New Design Watch (lg)\$30.00



AVSA Mugs\$10.00



AVSA Computer Mouse Pads\$7.50
Orders of 5 or more\$7.00 ea.



AVSA Pin\$6.00
Orders of 5 or more ..\$5.00 ea.



AVSA Letter Opener\$3.00
Orders of 5 or more\$2.50 ea.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

CONVENTION REVISITED

Now, more discussion on the Sacramento convention commercial display tables, beginning with the Best New Introductions. These were all semiminatures grown by Sidney Sorano and exhibited in Lyndon Lyon's display. Best New Introduction was 'Ms. Smartypants', a chimera with green, rosy-pink and white blooms growing atop emerald green small-growing foliage. This is a very cute and unusual cultivar. 2nd Best New Introduction was 'Hula Hoop', an endearing plant. It has blue and white blooms that are also chimeral. These abundant blooms are produced atop very neat, good-forming, green, tailored foliage. The 3rd Best New Introduction was 'Little Chatterbox', a sweet little plant sporting dark pink blooms with blue fantasy above dark green foliage. Sidney also exhibited miniature and semiminature plants with uniquely colored blooms that should strengthen the red spectra in these classes. The large blooms were beautiful dark shades of fuchsia, purplish-red and burgundy, some with thin white edges and some with beautiful "sparkle" in the bloom. Watch for them next spring!

Rob's Mini-o-lets' table featured several of his very good, reliable introductions. One of the newer ones particularly caught my eye: 'Rob's Twinkle Blue'. It is a very tiny-growing miniature, with dark, almost black-green foliage that barely reaches three inches at maturity. The blooms are equally intriguing, being medium to dark royal blue, bell-shaped blooms. The value of this plant as a show plant is questionable as its foliage simply does not appear to overlap well, but for the hobbyist and for landscape and terrarium plantings it should be outstanding!

GOIN' COCONUTS AT CONVENTION

If you're a regular reader of my column, you'll remember Darryl Hoover from California, my guest columnist from March 1997. I was finally able to meet Darryl in Sacramento. During one of our conversations he gave me a brick of coir fibre he has been experimenting with. Coir is made from coconut husks, and is used as a peat substitute. It has the

great advantage of not compacting, as does peat, although it settles much quicker. Darryl has been using coir for several months and reports his plants never looked better, which is saying a lot for him!

Several of us on the AOL African Violet board are now testing coir, thanks to Darryl, including Steve Covolo and Carol Allegretti, both from the Chicago area. Each of us is mixing the coir a little differently, some using bone meal as a bloom booster in the mix, some adding charcoal, with all of us mixing in varying amounts of perlite. Because we're trying the coir in different areas of the country, with differing water systems and climates, this should prove interesting. More updates will appear in future columns, and as always, I welcome your input!

ONE MORE CONVENTION NOTE

Byron Borck, the very energetic convention co-chairman, had an interesting observation about the controversial 'Precious Pink' problem. If you remember, I have had great difficulty growing this great cultivar, purchasing plants in full bloom and never having them bloom again! His comment was that because of this, a cultural problem was indicated as opposed to a "cultivar" problem. Byron's observation has proven absolutely correct, as I now have two absolutely perfect 'Precious Pink's growing in a terrarium that simply refuse to stop putting up blooms. I have yet to time them to get them to a show, but when I do, you'll be the first to know!

A RETRACTION

In the May column, I erroneously informed the readership regarding use of African violets as the focal point/dominant feature in designs. I thank Norah Otto of Nederland, Colorado for bringing this to my attention. Rather than try to put it in my own words, a quote from pages 68-69 of the *Handbook for Judges, Exhibitors and Growers* seems in order:

"...African violet blossoms or plants should be the highlight of the design. In flower arrangements the blossoms should be emphasized and readily apparent in the design; in

plant arrangements the African violets should be the focal point."

I maintain my original statement in the column that beginners do well by attempting to make the African violet the dominant feature of a design. As they become more familiar with design and its intricacies, this should become less of a consideration to them.

SEASONAL TIPS

Fall is an extremely active growing period for our violets. Now is a good time to assess damage done to them over the summer by irregular watering (hope you enjoyed your vacations!), too much heat, and fertilizing irregularities. With the small ones, a row or two of leaves can be removed and complete repotting done. This will get your plant off to a fresh, healthy start, encouraging a good, healthy root system that will yield lots of blooms in late fall and again in spring.

This is also a good time to put down leaves that will put up plantlets during the winter, just in time for transplanting on those cold winter days during your favorite football/basketball game, movie, or Boston Pops concert. I can't think of too much else in life that has the advantage of raising spirits and serving as inspiration more than "playing" with the violets on a blustery, grey day!

Finally, commercials are anxious to get rid of their current stock to make way for their 1999 offerings. Many are discounting their plants, so turn to the advertising pages in this issue and check out the bargains. Small ones purchased now will grow rapidly enough over winter that they will put on quite a display of blooms next spring.

THE BLACK AND WHITE OF IT

One of my local club's programs featured two of our pre-

Hortense and Sundown Pittman wish to announce, with much regret, that Hortense's African Violets will no longer be shipping plants. We have been active for over twenty years as commercial members of AVSA.

On November 3, 1997, we moved to a rural area about 35 miles north of Dallas, Texas. We had built a new home in the country and looked forward to growing violets in the area. The move was a bit hard on us, but the violets survived the 300 mile move from San Antonio. We added a couple of additional 8 ft. stands for seedlings, and everything was looking great, or so we thought.

In a couple of months, we realized that we were in trouble. The violets refused to grow. We began to check our soil mix and the pH, after seeing violet symptoms that were totally unknown to us. Could it be the great-tasting water? We requested an analysis report from our Rural Water Supply Corporation and were dismayed to learn that our water was indeed the problem.

The water had a high amount of sodium, much too much for African violets and many other varieties of plants to grow

miere growers discussing how they grow their violets. The discussion proved to be informative, enlightening and entertaining! The first panelist was Sue Hill, a veteran grower and winner of many Best in Show awards. The second was Gene Loveland, also a repeat Best in Show award winner including the 1986 national convention show. No sooner did Sue finish her excellent presentation than Gene got up and contradicted everything Sue said. And when Gene would do that, Sue would retaliate with a contradiction of what Gene said. This was done in a polite, congenial manner, nevertheless, this tete-a-tete stood out in my mind.

Here were two superlative growers, both with enough credentials to impress top brass at the Pentagon, and even they couldn't agree, yet they both lay claim to repeated success!

The point? In our world we are often looking for the simplest, quickest answer. We want everything in black and white. We simply don't want to admit there are a lot of shades of grey and nothing is absolute. This is true even in the world of African violets, as evidenced by the program given by Sue & Gene, and almost any conversation that is ever held by violet growers.

The answer? Remain a skeptic, always questioning ideas and continually searching for new ones. Find a system that works for you and your growing environment, and stick with it. Make changes slowly, deliberately and over time, experimenting with a few plants at a time. Then, once the results are seen, make necessary changes to your entire program. Most of all, understand what works for you won't work for everyone, and that what works for everyone might not work for you. First and foremost, remember the maxim I consider to be crucial: "If it isn't broke, don't fix it!" We'll talk again in November!

successfully. We explored several alternatives. We could drill a deep well, but it would come from the same sands as our water supply. We could drill a shallow well and hope it wouldn't go dry or pick up the sodium. Rain water isn't always assured, and stock tanks on our place sometimes go dry in the summer.

After a call, our friend, Ken Froboese, who owns and operates greenhouses in Boerne, TX, picked up hundreds of our plants before their demise and will be growing some of the seedlings for us.

We will still do some hybridizing in a small way at our new home, and look forward to becoming hobbyists instead of commercial growers. Our new varieties will be available through a few friends who do ship.

We want to thank our many friends who have grown our hybrids over the years. Many of you have been very encouraging during this transition, and we are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you in Houston for the AVSA convention. Our best wishes for your happy growing.

Hortense and Sundown Pittman

Question Box



Ralph Robinson

P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

I've received two phone calls this week from new growers asking how they could learn more about African violets and if there were any good books I could recommend on the subject. My answer is always the same — join AVSA and get the *African Violet Magazine*. For half the price of a hard-cover book, you receive up-to-date, useful information from other knowledgeable growers as well as color photos of the latest varieties and sources for getting these varieties. Since you're reading this, I'm obviously "preaching to the converted". The second thing I told these callers, however, might also be said to some of you — join your local violet club! The very best way of learning is by talking with other violet growers, face to face. I've been a member of one local club for 22 years and still can learn something from most meetings.

As is always the case, questions by phone are nearly always willingly listened to (though I can't promise a satisfactory answer) when calls are made during our business hours, since we can work and talk at the same time. I can't promise a reply by mail or e-mail, since this demands too much of our scarce time. For some basic cultural information, articles, and "how to" lessons, you might want to check out the "culture corner" of our web-site, found at www.robsviolet.com.

QUESTION: *What ingredients do you include in your potting medium?*

ANSWER: Our soil recipe is as follows: 1/2 Pro-Mix BX (a peat and perlite mix), and 1/2 coarse vermiculite, with about 3/4 cup #10 charcoal per 5 gallons of the soil mix, adding enough horticultural limestone (if necessary) to achieve a pH of about 6.8. Whether this is the ideal soil mix for you, however, is another question. What works for us may not be best for you. This will depend upon a number of other factors, most importantly, your watering methods. A simple rule is as follows: *the wetter you plan on keeping your plants, the lighter (more porous, less water-retentive) the soil mix should be.*



Dorothy Kosowsky

712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

For example, if you plan on top-watering your violets and letting them dry before watering again, then a less porous, "heavier" mix can be used. If you plan on watering with capillary mats, a lighter mix is needed, especially if the matting is kept constantly wet. If plants are wick-watered, a very light mix is necessary since the soil mix will be kept very wet nearly all of the time. In the extreme, plants can be grown in an extremely porous medium, like gravel, as might be the case when grown hydroponically.

To "lighten" a soil mix, a greater proportion of the mix should contain ingredients that "break up" the mix itself (so you don't end up with one big soggy mass of soil), and/or retain less water themselves. Ingredients like vermiculite and perlite are commonly added for this purpose. Perlite will retain less water than vermiculite, so will do more to lighten the mix, as will using coarser (larger pieces) grades of either of these. Other ingredients that sometimes are used include sand, styrofoam beads, ground brick or clay shards, to name a few — basically anything that loosens the soil mix and retains less water than the peat moss. Adding "soil" (i.e. garden loam or topsoil), on the other hand, would make the mix less porous and more water-retentive. Any mix containing more than an insignificant amount of "soil" in the mix would not be recommended for wick-watering unless the mix also contained a large proportion of perlite, or similar material. Such a "heavier" mix would be better used when plants are top-watered since the grower would be able to water still-moist plants less than others.

QUESTION: *I know very little about African violets, so this question might seem silly. Recently, I started a plant from a normal-looking, green leaf. When the plantlet appeared, all of its leaves were white in color. How common is an African violet with such white leaves?*

ANSWER: This isn't a silly question at all, especially from someone still new to our hobby. A violet with white in its leaves is called "variegated". Depending upon the variety, the amount of variegation can be scarcely visible or may be

so great as to make a leaf nearly entirely white. Unfortunately, many of these varieties can lose their variegation as they age, or when grown under warm conditions. I suspect that the leaf that you rooted was taken from a plant that was originally variegated but had lost its variegation and turned green. Genetically, however, that leaf is still variegated and will produce variegated plantlets when used for propagation. In fact, it's usually wise to use the "greener" leaves of a variegated variety for propagation, since these leaves are often more vigorous than the very white ones from the same plant and will produce more plantlets more quickly. These white plantlets will likely also eventually turn green if grown under the same conditions as the original.

QUESTION: *I'd like to know why some of my violets grow by spreading out and others are growing upright like trees. These drop their bottom leaves and grow taller. Is there anything that I need to do to look after them?*

ANSWER: There are a few possibilities. If "spreading out" means that the plant is becoming wider by producing more crowns and leaves, there are two possible reasons. The first is that the violet has been allowed to develop more than one crown (growing point in the center of leaves). This happens when "suckers" — the small, secondary crowns growing from the leaf axils, are not removed and are allowed to develop into larger crowns. If this is the case, divide the plant so that each of the new plants has only one crown. Pot each of these plants separately into their own pots. In the future, remove suckers as soon as it becomes obvious that they are not blossom buds. The plant will bloom better and grow more attractively if this is done on a regular basis. The other possibility is that the violet is a "trailing" variety, that, by its nature, freely produces additional crowns. The difference is that trailing varieties produce additional crowns without harming blooming potential or the display of foliage. Most good trailing varieties will produce this growth in the form of "runners" that often have a vine-like or crawling habit. The additional crowns on trailing varieties need not be removed.

As for those violets growing "upright like trees", this is usually the result of not repotting frequently enough. Violets are no different than other plants—as new leaves are produced, older leaves are lost. As the older, lower, leaves are removed, a "neck" (bare stem) develops over time. If they are not repotted on a regular basis, the neck will become more and more visible. Nearly all violets should be repotted about twice a year. Repotting doesn't necessarily mean a bigger pot! Use only a pot the size of the plant's root system, and not larger. Repotting means removing some of the older soil (and a few old roots), lowering the plant in its pot, and adding fresh soil, in the process burying the neck. The lowest row of leaves on the repotted violet should lay flat on top

of the pot rim. Don't worry about "shocking" the plant—if repotting is done regularly, then not much of a neck will need to be buried and not much of the old soil needs to be removed, so that your violet will barely notice that anything's been done to it.

QUESTION: *I have some violets as well as a few orchids. My problem is aphids, which I think came in on some mini roses from a local nursery. I'd like to get some more violets, but I'd like to get rid of this problem first.*

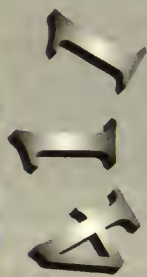
ANSWER: Aphids aren't usually a common problem in violets, though they have been known to appear in a collection on a rare occasion, usually when brought in on another plant. They are usually light green, sometimes black, and have soft pear-shaped bodies that are easily visible to the naked eye. They usually can be seen on the undersides of leaves or on blossom stems, where the plant tissue is softer and more vulnerable. Because they are easily visible, they can usually be easily eliminated with quick treatment of the affected plants.

Only twice (in over 20 years) have we found aphids in our violet collection. In one instance, they came in on some newly acquired orchids and were quickly eliminated by spraying the affected plants with Knox-Out at the recommended dilution. One thorough spraying did the trick. There are a number of insecticides that can be effective on aphids — malathion, diazanon, or many pyrethrin sprays. As always with such chemicals, *read the label*, and follow all the usual precautions to protect yourself from exposure. In the second instance, we found large numbers of aphids on a number of *Streptocarpus* that we had purchased at a show. In this case the numbers were too many, and the plants not valuable enough, so we simply tossed all of the affected plants into the compost pile. They could have been saved, but doing so wasn't worth the time and wasn't worth the risk to our health.

QUESTION: *I have a long window-box like container into which I'd like to plant a number of violets. Can I do this?*

ANSWER: This is a question that has been asked recently by a few of our customers at the shop. Yes, African violets can be potted into such a container, but it certainly would be far from ideal, and might present some problems, particularly for novice growers. Violets like to have a "pot" just large enough for their root system, since the excess soil will tend to stay too wet and can lead to root rot. This would be the case with such a large planter, even if many violets were potted together. Violets also will grow best when given their own "space". To keep them from being "overpotted", they would need to be planted quite close together, meaning that neighboring plants would tend to grow into each other,

(Question Box continued on bottom of page 10)



I Hoped I Was Wrong

by Hal McKain • Lamoni, IA

I made a list of the number of African violets I had growing around the house. I added up the list, re-added the numbers and said to myself, "I hope I'm wrong!" How could I have made the same mistake I had enjoyed watching other growers make? Sure enough, I had also let the numbers sneak up on me. It was 411! Wow!

As a retiree I have gotten a lot of satisfaction in raising and giving away African violets. I have made a habit of giving away an average of one each day.

One of my motivators is having a drawing for students and employees at Graceland College. The winners have expressed so much appreciation for the blooming plants that it makes me to want to continue.

One occasion made me laugh, after a tough football game which Graceland had won. I saw one of our great big lineman walking off the field, his head was down, his uniform dirty and sweaty. I wanted to help him

feel better so I put my arm around his shoulder and asked him how he was doing. I was expecting a reply about the game or how he was feeling. Instead, he said, "Do you think I'll ever win an African violet?" I was so amused I told him I'd just give him one!

Another occasion stands out in my mind. On the death of one of my close friends I gave his wife an African violet. When I saw her a couple of years later she said the plant was blooming profusely and that she thought of me every day because the plant was on the kitchen table. She called it 'Tom's Violet', after her husband. Needless to say, I was deeply moved.

It appears that my experiences with African violets have become an important part of a meaningful life for me. Who would have ever thought that so much satisfaction, enjoyment, happiness and excitement would revolve around African violets?

Come to think of it, all of us!



1998 LSAVC STATE CONVENTION

by Dolores Gibbs
Convention Chairman

The time is almost here, and all members of the First Austin AVS are hard at work to make your 1998 LSAVC Convention a success. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn South, off Interstate 35, Austin, Texas, October 29 - November 1, 1998. This hotel has been remodeled in anticipation of the 1999 opening of the nearby new Austin airport.

We have two very good presentations for you. AVSA First Vice President, Bill Foster, will show us how he creates such wonderful design entries. Our second speaker will be commercial grower, Ken Froboese, who will give a presen-

tation on growing plants for show.

Susan Storey and Joyce Kimbro are co-chairmen for our show. Our Judge's School will be taught by Sue Ramser, Teacher and AVSA Master Judge. Donations for convention awards may be sent to Iris Scott, 11840 Rimrock Trail, Austin, TX 78737.

The public is invited on October 30th, 3pm - 6pm, and October 31, 10am - 6pm.

On behalf of the members of First Austin AVS, we invite you to join us - and remember, "African Violets - A Capitol Idea!"



(Question Box continued from page 9)

their leaves competing for the same space. Violets crowded this way won't develop to their full potential — foliage will likely be smaller, weaker, and poorly formed.

If you would like to display violets in such a container, I would suggest keeping them in their own individual pots, and placing (not planting) each into the box, being sure to space them far enough apart so that they will have a chance

to develop properly. If a more "full" look is desired, trailing varieties might be the answer, since they are naturally spreading plants, and can be grown to fill this large space more easily. In time, trailers might actually be trained to fill the box and crawl over its sides, something the non-trailing varieties will not do.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

I hope you and your plants survived the summer heat! I don't know about your area, but it was a hot, dry summer in Texas. Have you purchased your new Handbook? If you purchased it at the AVSA convention or ordered it prior to May, be sure to check to see that you have received the corrected pages. You should have received pages 45, 46, and 69 through 74 to replace the original pages of the revision. If you have not received them, call or write the AVSA office and request them.

Are you planning to register a judging school? If so, please refer to rules on page 87 of the Handbook and try to adhere to them. The registrar for the schools is Elinor Skelton. Her address is listed inside the cover of the *African Violet Magazine*. The cost for registering a school is \$15.

I promised that we were not going to start messing up our new Handbook, and I am already breaking that promise. An omission has been detected! Under Interpretive Plant Arrangements, page 68, you may want to insert the word "blooming" before "African violet plants". We all know this, but there are many people who look for loopholes. If we do not make this official by adding the word "blooming", someone will surely send in a schedule stating that a non-blooming plant may be used and would point out that the Handbook did not state a blooming plant as a requirement.

I was teaching a school recently and was lecturing from the book. I noticed a comma missing somewhere. I did not make a note of it, so if you see a comma missing feel free to insert one! Here are some questions received by mail or discussed at the Judges' Breakfast in Sacramento:

Q. Is it legal to enter a plant in one of the decorative ceramic self-watering pots?

A. Yes, we allow self-watering pots in the regular classes so there is no reason why they could not be used as a decorative or novel container if they meet the requirements stated in the schedule.

Q. Should a trailing species African violet be entered in the class designated for standard trailers?

A. No! ALL species should be entered in the class designated for species. However, trailing species in the class for species, or from AVSA collections may be considered for Best Trailer.

Q. Are we required to have the Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges as a part of the Educational Exhibit in order to receive full credit?

A. No! This has been discussed before. It certainly may be included, but it is not a requirement.

Q. In a recent show, a dish garden was entered in the interpretive plant arrangement class. The panel of judges gave it a blue ribbon. It was pointed out to them that it was a dish garden. They had it moved to the dish garden class, but then discovered the exhibitor already had an entry in that class. The blue ribbon was then removed and no award was given. Was this correct?

A. Yes, but it took a long time to get there! In the first place, the exhibitor should have known the difference between a plant arrangement and a dish garden; secondly, 'entries' should have caught the error. Since it survived the first two checkpoints, the judges should have recognized that it WAS NOT a plant arrangement and then should have written on the entry card, "does not conform to requirements for a plant arrangement" and "eliminated from consideration for an award". Had this been done, time could have been saved.

Q. When judging a show in a mall with limited space, should points be deducted if the only focal point is awards to be given?

A. Not if the club has done a nice job of *making* it a focal point. In a large number of shows the focal point *is* the awards table. As judges, we must remember that it is becoming more difficult to find places in which to hold shows. We need to take this into consideration and remember that some of the qualifications of a judge are *fairness, tact and kindness*. The column is getting a little lengthy. We'll talk later.

Please note that **Billie Golla** is the new AVSA Schedule Approver. You will find her address in the front of the *African Violet Magazine*. Please join me in extending a great big **THANK YOU** to **Bob Green** for the many years of time and effort he gave to this job.

Also, please welcome **Rose Howlett**, Oklahoma, **L.T. Ozio**, Louisiana, **Harriette Poss**, California, and **Martha Turner**, Texas, as new Master Judges.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

As we come into the fall season, you might consider trying a few hybridization crosses to produce some new seed for next spring. To help readers plan their crosses and predict what kind of flowers the offspring might produce, this month's column will repeat a list of dominant and recessive genetic traits for various flower characteristics and colors.

Dominant Trait

Pansy-shaped flowers
Double flowers
Semidouble flowers
Geneva edges
Raspberry edges
Frisled/ruffled petals
Any flower color
Blue/purple color
Non-coral colors
Fantasy patterns
Bicolors
Thumbprint pattern
Mottled flower color

Recessive Trait

Star-shaped flowers
Semidouble/single flowers
Single flowers
Solid edges
Solid edges
Plain petals
White flowers
Non-blue colors
Coral colors
Solid colors
Solid colors
Solid colors
Solid colors

Q: *I have seedlings from a self-pollinated cross of 'Golden Threads'. Some of the seedlings have pink flowers. How is this possible? I thought a cross of white x white would only give white-flowered offspring.*

A: If you examine the table of genetic traits given above, you are correct that a cross of white, a genetic recessive with itself, should have only given white offspring. However, 'Golden Threads' is not strictly a "white" flowered plant, having some yellow streaking in the flowers. It therefore shows the dominant trait of "any flower color". While a pink-flowered offspring is not one I would have normally expected from this cross, many of the "yellows" appear to be fantasy flowers with colors such as pink in their back-

ground. It would seem that your pink offspring is showing up as a "non-fantasy" or recessive trait. I would predict that most of your offspring from the self-pollination of 'Golden Threads' would be white/yellow fantasy flowers with a few non-fantasy or solid colored offspring showing up as recessives.

Q: *I have a cross of 'Blushing Ivory' x a purple/white flowered seedling. Most of the F1 generation plants are purples. How can I get the ivory color of 'Blushing Ivory' back?*

A: It would appear that the ivory color or pattern is a genetic recessive since it seems to have disappeared in the F1, or first generation. You should be able to get the ivory color back by back-crossing an F1 plant to 'Blushing Ivory' or breeding two of the best F1 plants together to get an F2 generation. The backcross should produce more ivory-colored offspring (up to 50%) but may reinforce some undesirable genetic traits. The F1 x F1 cross will give a lower number of ivory offspring (up to 25%) but gives you the advantage of mixing the traits more completely. Depending on what your goals are with the cross, either situation should work. Good luck!

Q: *How is it possible for a cross of two solid green plants to produce a number of variegated babies?*

A: Since you mention that several variegated babies were produced, we can rule out mutation as the source. It would appear that your seed parent is really a variegated plant but doesn't have enough of the mutated chloroplasts to have the variegation actually show in its foliage. When the seeds are produced, the ratio of normal-to-variegated chloroplasts can shift, sometimes placing a high number of variegated chloroplasts in the egg cell. When this occurs, the offspring will sometimes have enough of the mutated

chloroplasts to show variegated foliage. Since Tommie Lou and Crown variegation types are inherited maternally (only through the seed parent), I suspect that your seed parent plant must come from a maternal line of variegated plants. Keep this information in your hybridization records. You may want to produce variegated offspring again and could do so using the same apparently non-variegated plant as the seed parent.

Q: In a previous column, you mentioned variegation appearing as streaks of color in some leaves on one side of a plant. Could this possibly be a type of chimera?

A: Yes, this type of variegation is often the result of a partial chimera. Only a few of the cells of the growing center or apical bud have the mutation; therefore, only parts of the leaves will show the variegation. Because this is a chimera, it might be possible to produce a plant with variegation in all its leaves by using suckers or blossom stalk cuttings, the same methods used to reproduce plants with pinwheel or chimera flowers. This method might be used to

"capture" a new kind of variegation and stabilize it. If you have plants that show variegation on only one side, try taking some suckers or blossom stalk cuttings and see if the variegation can be reproduced. Given how popular variegated foliage is, any new type that might be stabilized in this way could be very popular.

Q: A baby on a variegated leaf appears to be solid rosy-red in color and doesn't appear to have any green areas. Can this baby survive on its own?

A: Generally the plant must have some green areas in order to survive. The green areas contain the chloroplasts which help the plant manufacture food using light energy. If the plant lacks chloroplasts, as evidenced by a lack of green color, it usually dies. Let the baby stay on the mother leaf as long as possible. There may be some chloroplasts under the "red" color. If the baby does survive, it will likely be a very slow grower and be reluctant to flower. However, try to keep it alive and see what happens. This sounds like a very interesting foliage color and may well be worth the extra effort.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 1998

Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY	\$10.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY	\$2.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Wilmore, KY	\$10.00
AOL AVC apply towards technology drive	
Carol Allegretti, Barrington, IL	\$10.00
J. Robert Moore, Milwaukee, WI	\$2.00
Alice Brown, North Little Rock, AR	\$10.00
Marc DeVoir, Camarillo, CA	\$2.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR	\$2.00
Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA	\$50.00
Allen Krueger, Zanesville, OH	\$2.00
Therese Lynam, Brandon, FL	\$5.00
James Welch, San Leandro, CA	\$20.00
Joy Tallant, Albuquerque, NM	\$2.00
Nancy Yano, Honolulu, HI	\$10.00
Jean McIlvanie, Denver, CO	\$2.00
Apply towards Nell-Sue Tyson Memorial	
First Denton AVS, Denton, TX	\$20.00
Norah Otto, Nederland, CO	\$15.00
Apply towards Nell-Sue Tyson plaque	
Ethel O. Spurlin, Mililani, HI	\$25.00
In fond memory of a dear friend and a charter member of the Hawaii AVS, Edith Shigeta	
Delaware AVS in lieu of travel expense for judges	\$25.00
Laura Shannon, Judith Smith, Enid Branson, Susan Hanna and Kurt Eckart from Philadelphia AVS	
Delaware AVS in lieu of travel expense for judges	\$15.00
Barbara Jones, Bettie Roth and Judi Criswell from AVS Springfield, PA.	
Delaware AVS in lieu of travel expense for judge	\$10.00
Kay Lyons, AVS Lower Bucks County, PA.	
AVSA Executive Committee and Board of Directors	\$90.00
In memory of Albert Miller, father of Ron and father-in-law to Ann Miller, Spring, TX	
Michael Myers, Morristown, TN	\$7.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ	\$2.00
Lois Imholte, Seattle, WA	\$25.00
JoAnn Osbourne, Alpharetta, GA	\$25.00
Pat Boddy, Rancho Cordova, CA	\$2.00
Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH	\$10.00
Frances Forbes, Stockbridge, CA	\$18.00

Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ	\$10.00
Elizabeth Kuen, East Haven, CT	\$25.00
Jean Marc Aubert, Victoriaville, Canada	\$29.50
Baltimore, MD AVS in lieu of travel expense for	\$20.00
Judges Pat Webber, Libby Behnke, Angeline Celano and Carol Callahan from Delaware AVS	
Bev Promersberg, Monument, CO	\$10.00
Apply towards memorial plaque for Nell-Sue Tyson	
Mary Aranda, Mexico 126, Mexico	\$5.00
Jean Miller, Arvada, CO	\$3.00
Apply towards memorial for Nell-Sue Tyson	
Elizabeth Sadova, New York, NY	\$10.00
Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA	\$1.00
Carole Ulisse, Corpus Christi, TX	\$5.00
Lee Shaughnessy, Denver, CO	\$2.00
Lyn C. Sweeney, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	\$100.00
Pied Pipers Club, St. Louis, MO	\$10.00
Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI	\$25.00
In fond memory of Edith Shigeta	
A charter member of Hawaii AVS and a dear friend	
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	\$10.00
Joyce Kellerhals, New York, NY	\$2.00
Jeanne Senay, Desperes, MO	\$10.00
Danville AVS, Danville, VA	\$3.00
Carol Sharits, Chicago, IL	\$2.00
Evelyn Kalkhof, West Babylon, NY	\$7.00
Rosemary Miller, Jansenville, IN	\$2.00
Linda Bowers, Cranston, RI	\$10.00
AV Study Club of Houston, Houston, TX	\$25.00
Velma Malloy, Lewisburg, PA	\$2.00
Booster Fund Promotion Table, Sacramento, CA	\$1,061.50
Many, many "THANKS" to Dorothy and Reg Townsend, Australia; Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT; Kazuo Horikoshi, Japan; Anne Tinari, Huntingdon Valley, PA; Linda Colburn, Sebring, FL; Annamaria Mays, Alexandria, VA; Town and Country AVS, OH; Rowena Woo, Belmont, CA; Gerturde Moribito, Painesville, OH and Kay and Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA.	

Total.....\$1,818.00

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

"Is it normal to have a neck on a violet, or am I doing something wrong?" That's a question that we were asked recently. It's an interesting question, because a neck is normal, but not desirable. Poor growing can speed the development of a neck, but a neck can be one of the easier problems to solve in the process of caring for African violets.

WHAT IS AN AFRICAN VIOLET NECK?

A neck is the stalk that gradually develops between the lowest row of leaves and the top of the soil. It is fairly thick. On a standard violet the neck would be similar in diameter to one of your fingers or maybe even your thumb. The more slowly the neck develops over time, the thicker it will be.

When violets are growing in excellent light, the neck may become coiled around and around under the foliage and may be almost hidden by sagging outer leaves. When growing in poorer light, especially when the light comes only from one side of the plant, the neck will be more visible as the plant leans toward the light. In a worst-case scenario the violet's crown will actually hang from an extended neck. Joyce once insisted on repotting a violet that was hanging in a window in a friend's home before they sat down to lunch. The neck was at least twelve inches long, hanging well below the bottom of the pot. The tiny crown was trying desperately to face upward. It had a will to live though, and eventually bloomed, about six months after repotting.

The exterior of the neck will have many ridges from where leaves were once attached. When the leaf is removed, the tissue calluses over with a tough brown surface that protects the neck from pathogens. If leaves were allowed to wither and were not removed, there would be paper-dry membranes still clinging to the neck. Sometimes the neck will have a number of tiny plants trying to grow along its length. Wherever the neck makes contact with the soil, it may have some root development.

HOW DOES THE NECK HAPPEN?

Violet necks occur because of the loss of lower (older)

leaves. All new growth comes from the crown of the plant. As new growth occurs, each previous row of leaves continues to mature and age. Once the leaves have aged to a point where they are no longer efficiently producing energy for the plant, they begin to lose green color. They soften and begin to sag. Eventually they die, becoming completely brown and limp. If the leaf were not removed at this point, it would shrivel and dry on the stem.

Many advanced growers remove aging leaves at the very first sign of color loss. Allowing a leaf to remain until it has softened and become limp increases the possibility of rot developing. Mostly however, we remove aging leaves for cosmetic reasons. African violets do not look attractive when there are dead or dying leaves present.

CAN A NECK BE AVOIDED?

Necks are the natural result of an African violet's growth. They are inevitable. But it is possible to slow their development.

When violets are grown under near-perfect cultural conditions, new leaves develop in very close proximity to previous leaves. Show-winning violets often have many rows of leaves extending from a crown that is only an inch or so above the pot. Those leaves can be stripped away to reveal a very thick neck that almost resembles a miniature pineapple.

When violets are grown in poor cultural conditions, especially when the light is inadequate, the neck will become elongated and much thinner. This is because new leaves are developing farther apart from each other. Plants have a tendency to grow toward better light which causes the leaf axils to be farther apart. In violets, this results in the quicker development of a neck. It also results in leaves with longer stems (petioles), gaps between leaves, and a tendency to grow upward or toward the light source.

The best way to slow the development of a neck is to provide bright and even light directly over plants. Violets are also far more likely to grow compactly when they are grown in cool conditions. Temperatures in the lower and middle 60s

(Fahrenheit) will provide significantly more compact growth, almost to the point of being too compact a temperature of 72 degrees (Fahrenheit) is generally considered to be the optimum for African violets.

If violets are to be grown in a window, they must be extremely close to the window. Choose a window at which the inside air temperature stays fairly even. Direct sunlight often results in conditions that are too hot. Violets also must be turned weekly (or daily, if possible) to give all sides even exposure to the light.

Most advanced growers use fluorescent lights in order to produce desirable growth. The light tubes need to be fairly close (approximately twelve inches) to the top of the plants. The lights need to be on for up to fourteen hours a day. Plants grown on the edge of the lighted shelf will often begin to tilt in a manner similar to window-grown violets. These should also be turned regularly to expose all sides of the plant to the brightest light available.

HOW TO REPOT A NECK

Ideally, violets with necks will be repotted as soon as the necks are evident. If you can see a neck, even a short one, it is time to act!

It is best to wait until violets are just a bit dry before attempting to repot. If they are watered weekly, do the repotting just before they would be watered again. If violets are on a constant watering system, take them off of it for several days before repotting. Dry plants are less brittle and leaves will be less likely to snap off unexpectedly.

It is necessary to remove any leaves that are aging. Break away lower leaves that are faded in color, are marred by spots or cuts, or that are wilting. Make sure that the leaf separation occurs at the stalk so that no stem is left. Don't be afraid to choose too many. Leaves that are aging will fade more quickly during the stress of the transplant. Only strong, healthy leaves endure this process well. Leaving old leaves will mean that you will have to repot again quite soon.

The leaf removal will expose even more of a neck than was present before. The entire neck must be buried in fresh soil. This is NOT done by using a larger or deeper pot! Ideally the pot should be one-third the diameter of the leaf span and no deeper than about four inches (violet roots do not grow deep). If a violet show plant is nine inches across, judges would expect it to be in a three-inch pot. Anticipating that your repotted plant will grow quickly, you can use a pot that is larger than normally recommended if it is likely that the violet will soon reach the ideal size ratio. If your violet was thriving in the previous pot, just clean it out and use it again.

Most of the above can be done before your violet is removed from its original pot. To do the actual repotting, lift the plant out of the old pot. If it is firmly stuck in the pot, tap or squeeze the pot to loosen it. Another effective method is to slip one's fingers (palm down) around the main stem of

the plant to secure the soil. Then, turning the pot upside down, tap the edge of the pot on a hard surface, allowing the plant to drop into your hand as it comes loose from the pot.

Next, gently scrape the callused tissue off the exposed neck. Doing this will allow new roots to form more quickly, as they will not have that hard barrier to grow through. We use the dull side of a knife for this task.

Then, cut away the bottom of the root ball, removing enough to make it possible to set the entire neck into the pot. The bottom row of leaves should be even with, or slightly below, the top of the pot. The crown should be centered. Fill in the top with fresh soil. Be sure to use a light mix that will make rapid root development easy! Don't be tempted to pack the soil down! Finally, give it a good watering. You may have to add a little more soil at this point, since water will cause some settling.

What if you have to cut away the entire root ball to bury the neck? Then cut away some stalk too, so that the remaining stem is only about an inch and half long. Fill your pot with fresh loose soil and water it. Then set the plant into the pot with the stem centered in the moist soil.

Disturbing the roots has the potential to shock the plant which results in rapid wilting. To avoid this when repotting, it may help to put the entire plant into a clear container that will maintain high humidity during the rerooting process. The leaves will not lose moisture into this high humidity and will be less likely to suffer. They are usually thriving in two to four weeks and can return to their normal location.

What about the flowers? If your plant has open blossoms, or even buds above the foliage, you might as well remove them. They rarely enjoy the surprise of the transplant and usually fade quickly. Besides that, repotted violets need to direct all of their energy into root growth for a few weeks.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SOIL

Soil is always important, but your mix is especially critical when repotting. A loose, porous mix that provides plenty of air to roots while maintaining even moisture is critical. Unfortunately you will probably not be able to buy this high quality potting mix at a local store, unless they specialize in African violets. Commercial mixes labeled "African violet potting soil" are generally awful. Most often they are using a black smeary sedge peat or heavily decomposed Canadian peat that packs down and can ruin violets. Greenhouses will not buy this stuff, so it is sold to unwitting consumers at discount prices. Please, mix your own or send off for some good stuff!

Several companies advertise potting mixes in this magazine which work quite well. You may find a local violet club that offers soil for sale at their annual shows. These are especially good because local growers have already adjusted the mix to suit the local conditions.

If you wish to mix your own, a good mix to start with is

a 1-1-1 mix of one part milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss, one part coarse perlite, and one part coarse vermiculite. Many growers like to add some (perhaps a third of one part) horticultural charcoal as well. In some areas dolomite lime is also very helpful. We are not fond of adding fertilizer or insecticide to this soil mix. It is easier to control fertilizer when adding it weekly with water. Insecticides can be dangerous when there is skin exposure, and this is hard to avoid when repotting. Apply pesticides only as needed and never casually.

It is also always smart to premoisten the potting mix before using it. Add hot water to the mix and stir it well so that it is evenly moist. Peat is sometimes slow at absorbing

water and does better if the water is hot. You can't use hot water, once a plant is present because it will cause damage. Roots can be stressed by contacting extremely dry soil which absorbs moisture out of the roots, causing them to wither.

NECKS ARE NORMAL BUT THEY AREN'T PRETTY

It is normal to have a neck develop on violets. You are not a bad grower just because a neck happened. But if you leave that neck and let it get worse ... shame!

Looking at the good side, a neck is a great reminder that violets need repotting once a year, just to freshen the soil. Without the reminder, it's easy to forget ... it's a good thing!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373-1926

Dorothy Gawienowski, Sunnyvale, CA	10.00	Fort Worth AVS, Fort Worth, TX	10.00
<i>In loving memory of Mom</i>		Linda R. Henke, Hollywood, FL	5.00
Suburban AV Enthusiasts, Country Club Hill, IL	50.00	Ruby Roloff, Sacramento, CA	5.00
<i>In memory of Banks Cheatham</i>		Old Dominion AVS, Falls Church, VA	10.00
<i>In memory of Jim Whitfield</i>		<i>In memory of Myrtle Mc Kneely</i>	
AVS of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI	25.00	Long Island AVS, Wantagh, NY	25.00
<i>In memory of Edith Shigeta, a charter member</i>		Doris R. Acree, MC Kenzie, TN	10.00
AVC of Morris County, Stanhope, NJ	5.00	Carol Allegretti, Barrington, IL	5.00
<i>In lieu of Judge's expenses for Jan Murasko</i>		Gulf AVC, Cape Coral, FL	10.00
Louise Gawienowski Lovelace, Sunnyvale, CA	10.00	Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY	3.00
<i>In memory of Grandmother Eva Walton</i>		Nancy Hagerman, Lafayette, LA	10.00
Roseline Fujimori, Honolulu, HI	15.00	Marc DeVoor, Camarillo, CA	2.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI	12.00	AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL	20.00
Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	10.00	Shirley Abrams, Valley Stream, NY	2.00
Mrs. Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT	10.00	Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA	50.00
Elsebeth S. Stryker, Vero Beach, FL	10.00	Chris Gauthier, West Jordan, UT	2.00
Karen Snidarich, Blaine, MN	5.00	Mary P. Rosser, Vallejo, CA	2.00
Larry Robinson, Lincoln, NE	25.00	Ms. Irene Schubert, Worthington, MN	10.00
Susan R. Polleys, Tucson, AZ	7.00	Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	10.00
Mary Ann Kelley, Carrollton, TX	1.00	<i>In memory of Phillip Harden</i>	
Betty Hoff, Lincoln, NE	50.00	Lois I. Imholte, Seattle, WA	25.00
Eleanor Gilson, Holbrook, MA	2.00	Allen Foust, Orange, NJ	5.00
Virginia Barthelmy, Tampa FL	1.00	Naomi L. Heller, Philadelphia, PA	2.00
Mrs. Ellen Brooke, Boyertown, PA	10.00	JoAnn Osborne, Alpharetta, GA	25.00
Mrs. Jane Cochrane, Staten Island, NY	10.00	Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ	10.00
Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA	3.00	Frances C. Forbes	5.00
Nancy Purucker, Juno Beach, FL	4.00	Mrs. William Hutchinson, Willard, MO	10.00
Barbara C. Murdock, Jacksonville, FL	1.00	<i>In memory of Peggy Staat</i>	
Margaret Nasta, McKeesport, PA	10.00	Mr. Jack Simenc, Glenwood Springs, CO	2.00
Mrs. Edward Hill, Esko, MN	7.00	Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX	10.00

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Get Ready for Show!

Yes, I'm advising you to get your gesneriads ready for spring shows starting in September! In 1999 the AVSA convention will be in Houston, Texas. Since I live near Houston I'm getting most of my gesneriads ready for convention beginning Labor Day weekend. Here's my advice if your show is 6 to 7 months away.

Streptocarpus

It usually takes about 6 months to produce a *Streptocarpus* show plant. Either begin with a newly purchased plant or split apart one of your current plants into smaller ones. Wash away most of the old soil in a bucket with room temperature water. By the way, soil mealy bugs float, so look for them. Pot a small grouping of 3 young plants in a clean 4" or 6" pot making sure that you do NOT bury each plant lower than it is in its current pot. Unlike an African violet, a strep will rot or produce damaged leaves if you pot it too low in the soil. As a precaution, I like to pack a 50/50 mix of perlite and vermiculite an inch around the root system. Surround the outside of the perlite/vermiculite mix with whatever soil you like, preferably a light mix. At show time, you can easily put sphagnum or dark soil on top of the perlite to hide it. Your newly transplanted strep might be unstable, wanting to fall. Pierce the largest leaf with a plastic cocktail stirrer or florist's gift tag trident and push into the soil to stabilize the plant. That leaf will be long gone before show time. Put the newly transplanted plant into 100% humidity using a thin plastic bag such as one you'd find at the grocery store for vegetables. Keep it in that bag for about 4 weeks, occasionally opening the bag and blowing new air inside. After a month, gradually expose it to normal air. When a leaf has produced 6 blossom stalks, remove all but 2" of the base of that leaf forcing it to produce new leaves at that base. Before the show, remove all leaf stubs.

Sinningias

Five months ahead of show is the time needed to get older sinningias in show condition. Cut the top off the old tuber but leave the bottom 2 leaves attached to the old stem. This gives you a tuber with an inch or so of old stem, with 2 leaves attached. Sometimes the tuber won't send up a shoot from the base but will produce a new plantlet from the node between the stem and one of those bottom leaves. If the tuber does send up shoots from the base, then cut off the old stem. Wash the old tuber and remove ALL the old roots. Put the tuber in a plastic baggie with moist, but not soaking wet, perlite/vermiculite mixture. Place the baggie in a closet and check it every two weeks for new growth. When you see new growth, plant it in your usual way. You can plant the top 2 inches of that old plant in a vermiculite/perlite mixture. When it forms a tuber, plant it in your usual manner.

Episcias

With colder winter temperatures and decreased natural light, fall is the best time to have episcias concentrate on growing large enough to support strong stolens and multiple blossoms in the spring. I take an old plant and remove 5 of the largest plants, washed roots intact, and place them in another pot with fresh soil. Temporarily prevent shock by covering them with a plastic bag. Don't allow any new stolens or blossoms for 8 weeks. After 8 weeks allow each plant to have 2 stolens. Pin the stolens to the soil. Now you have 5 mature plants and 10 stolens. Don't allow those newly pinned stolens to have any new stolens for 6 weeks. This way they get nice and big. Thereafter, I pinch off the majority of new stolens as I monitor stolen production, making sure the plants are growing in a nice shape. Eight weeks before show, allow the plant to begin to produce blossoms.

I do not use bloom-boosting fertilizer on any gesneriad but will experiment since some people do use bloom boosters.

Best In Show, Next Time!!!

by Dorothy Kosowsky • Whittier, CA

The Growing Routine

This routine should begin at least 6 months before show time. Just after the close of your yearly show is not too soon to begin for standard African violets in order to achieve an outstanding plant.

Creating a "Good Plant"

Start with the right size pot. If you are working with a miniature, place it in a 2" ROUND pot as soon as the plant is large enough. Use some sort of ring, which can be made from a plastic plate or other similar type material. The 2" pot can be obtained through various advertisers in the AVSA magazine. With semiminatures use a 2-1/8" ROUND pot (this is a very important point, as it does seem to affect the growth pattern).

With standards, start with a 3" pot as soon as possible. Don't forget rings to start your training program. When potting, be sure the depth is correct. For minis, it needs to be about 1/2" below the rim of the pot to ensure adequate watering space, if you are top watering. I know that you may never top water, but we are "creating a painting" with our plant as the canvas, and this gives a more pleasing proportion. For semiminatures, allow a bit more space. For standards, the last row of leaves should be slightly angled up to the rim, but not quite resting on the rim of the pot.

Working With Your "Painting"

You are now ready to start the most important step in your creation, daily care and feeding of your "masterpiece."

While misting and turning on a daily basis may seem a huge chore, there is no other way to get even growth, even bloom distribution and an overall balanced plant. Next comes the weekly removal of leaves that are only a tiny bit smaller than the row above and the constant vigilance for suckers either in the leaf axils or at the base of the plant. These need to be removed as soon as they appear.

The reason for the ring now becomes very apparent. When you look at your "painting", you will be able to see the rosette is not quite round, and whether or not some leaves need to be moved to make the circle perfect. This is

the time to check that each leaf is in the correct row, since, when you are moving your plants, it is very easy to jostle the leaves out of alignment. Do keep them in place for the best growth pattern.

Rings also serve other purposes, such as protecting leaf edges from damage or as a handy turning tool, and also to ensure that each plant receives its fair share of space.

A warning when using tools such as plastic picks, straws, etc. to move leaves into place; be sure they do not damage other leaves as they act as a straightening agent. It only takes about 3 days, at the most, to move an errant leaf, and the picks or whatever you are using should be removed as soon as they have done their work.

Do look at your plant critically, when you are moving up to the next sized pot. The ideal size of a plant in relation to the pot is three to one. Another way of putting it would be; 1/3 of the plant is on one side, 1/3 covers the pot and the other 1/3 is on the other side of the pot.

Do remember to keep your miniatures in as small a pot as possible, because they should only grow to 6 inches, MAXIMUM. When they need repotting, use the same size pot. You can do the same for the semiminatures as well, although there are a few I move up to 2-1/4" pots, and a very few to 2-1/2" pots.

I'm assuming you have your plants on a calendar of light hours and disbudding, and are ready for the final push to have super plants!

The Five Weeks Before the Show

This is a critical time for the best display of your bloom, as you will need to GENTLY guide the peduncles up through the foliage to the center part of the plant. Many varieties need no help and naturally produce their bloom toward the central portion of the plant, but others seem to be quite stubborn, and even manage to bloom under the leaves if you aren't watching. During this period, the plants should all have a bath at the sink. Holding the plant at a slant, and starting in the center, wash each leaf with a stream of tepid water, rotating the plant until you have reached the last leaf in the bottom row.

Secure a box large enough to protect all the leaves of the plant from being damaged on the way to the show.

A Judges Eye View of Your Plants

The greatest loss of points are for:

- Dirty plant
- Wrong size pot

- Stubs and spent bloom not removed
- Gaps in symmetry
- Damaged leaves
- Lack of bloom
- Plants filled to full in order to hide a neck
- Damaged leaves that could have been removed
- Immature leaves in the bottom row



AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from April 1, 1998 to May 31, 1998

Barbara C. Murdock, Jacksonville, FL	\$ 1.00
Ruby Roloff, Sacramento, CA	10.00
Linda Henke, Hollywood, FL	5.00
Laurin Virginia Linson, Grapevine, TX	10.00
Violet Fane, Michigan City, IN	5.00
AVS of Morris County, Stanhope, NJ	5.00
(in lieu of Judge's gift to Janet Riemer)	
Carol Allegetti, Barrington, IL	10.00
Des Moines Evening AVS., Des Moines, IA	
(in memory of Ralph Trail)	30.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY	2.00
Nadine Walker, Rahrum, NV	5.00
Alice Brown, North Little Rock, AR	10.00
Marc Devoir, Camarillo, CA	2.00
Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA	50.00
Jane B. Sherer, Dora, AL	2.00
AVS of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	25.00
AVS of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	
(in memory of Mary Michnink)	15.00
Lois I. Imholte, Seattle, WA	25.00
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ	5.00
Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH	10.00
Joann Osborne, Alpharetta, GA	25.00
Margie Watson, Atlanta, GA	5.00
Pat Boddy, Rancho Cordova, CA	2.00
Albuquerque, AVC, Albuquerque, NM	25.00
Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA	5.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ	10.00
Joann Schrimsher, Victoria, TX	10.00

Mildred L. Knorr, Springfield, PA	5.00
Geraldine Cameron, Overland Park, KS	10.00
Gertrude Koch, Clayton, MO	18.00
First of Dallas AVS, Red Oak, TX	
(in memory of Eugene Hagemann)	25.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	
(in memory of Leah Wood)	25.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA	
(in memory of Juanita Perkins)	25.00
Diane Keller, Austin, TX	3.00
Reno-Sparks AVS, Sparks, NV	10.00
Mrs. Richard Hansen, Silver Spring, MD	10.00
Danville AVS, Danville, VA	3.00
AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	50.00
Elizabeth Sadova, New York, NY	12.00
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	30.00
(in honor of Mary Boland in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
(in honor of Jack Wilson in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
(in honor of Gary Gordon in lieu of Judge's expense)	15.00
African Violet Study Club, Houston, TX	25.00
Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA	1.00
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	10.00
Sacramento Convention Building/Maintenance Fund Raffles	413.00

Total \$1029.00

A special thank you to everyone who stopped by the table in Sacramento and helped with the raffles.

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

A
R E V I E W

If my records are correct, I have now completed forty interviews with AVSA Commercial members for the *African Violet Magazine*. They represent thousands of miles in the air, several rolls of film, and many telephone calls to complete an interview or verify information. In some cases a rental car has been used to reach a destination. Some stays have required motel rooms, restaurants, and, even in one case, a trip to the emergency room of a hospital. Were they worth it? Yes, a thousand times, yes! And I look forward to forty more.

Before beginning the next forty, I would like to pause and reflect on the past thirteen years and forty interviews across the United States, Canada and South Africa.

Most Peculiar Trip

Travel is always enjoyable when everything goes according to plan. However, sometimes little things begin to accumulate and everything seems to fall apart. At the end of March 1987, I planned to visit three growers for interviews. I flew to my first stop, Cleveland, Ohio, where I rented a car for the weekend. In New York I called the first grower I had scheduled and she gave me directions to her home. Soon, I was in a dismal part of town. Was I lost or turned around? No, so I kept going until I reached a run-down housing project. Eventually, I found the right apartment building, and with some trepidation, went in.

The hallway was littered and smelled offensive. I kept on, and knocked on a door where a very friendly face quickly appeared and let me in. The apartment was not much better than the hallway, but the person was nice enough. On one side of the room, I saw three benches with fluorescent fixtures, the lights on, and to my surprise, about half of the plants were dead - not dry, not sick - but dead.

The survivors, though not yet dead, were not healthy. What should I do? I could not write anything about this lady's plants that could be remotely construed as a recommendation or endorsement. Yet, I did not want to offend her. After the briefest of conversations, I excused myself, as I had "a long trip ahead of me."

My next destination was Keswick, Canada, a few miles

north of Toronto. I arrived mid-afternoon and found my way to the rural home of Bob and Jackie Patterson. After the interview, I eagerly selected several leaves to take with me, many from Canadian hybridizers.

I left for the drive back to Cleveland, where I was scheduled to visit the Eyerdoms at Granger Gardens. The next morning the skies were gray and light rain was falling. No problem. I thought, after all, this was the end of March.

Arriving at Granger Gardens, I was greeted by Jim Eyerdome who escorted me through the greenhouses. His high energy level was apparent as I tried to keep up, taking notes and photographing the benches and plants.

"I don't want to rush you," Jim said, "but, there is a big snow storm coming in and I'd like to get you back on the road." No problem, I thought, this was almost April.

Jim introduced me to his delightful grandparents, Hugh and Grace Eyerdome, and they were a joy to visit.

The moments went by too quickly, as I absorbed the distilled wisdom of years of African violet history. This couple had laid the groundwork, business-wise and genetically speaking, for us today. I hated to leave, but again, Jim urged me.

As I left, the rain increased. After about fifteen miles, I noticed it was beginning to freeze on the windshield wipers and trees. No problem, I told myself, it was almost spring time.

By the time I reached the airport the freezing rain had turned to snow - heavy, thick snow! Now I had a problem! Quickly, I got to the ticket counter and checked in. I placed a large box of Granger's plants onto the X-ray conveyer. The security guard said, "I don't think anything's wrong, but I just have to see what is inside." She gasped when she saw the beautiful plants Jim had so graciously packed just minutes earlier. Soon others came over to see what the fuss was about. As the security guards were "oohing" and "aahing" at the plants, even other passengers came over to see and satisfy their curiosity.

I arrived at the gate in plenty of time and waited. And waited. The incoming flight had been delayed but would land momentarily, we were told. We waited longer. Soon the plane did land and the crew got off. They all got off. That's curious,

I thought, because that flight only had one more stop - Kansas City, my destination and there was no replacement crew in sight.

Finally, we were told that according to FAA regulations, the arriving crew was not "legal to fly." This meant they had been flying too long that day to take off again.

We were assured that a "legal" crew had been paged and would arrive presently. The snow kept falling. In about an hour, the fresh crew arrived and we would soon board.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience. Boarding will begin in just a few minutes, but we have to de-ice the airplane again." Snow was still falling. Now, knowing I had a problem, I began to wonder, how big that problem was!

Then it came: "Ladies and gentlemen, the City of Cleveland has closed the airport for the foreseeable future."

The airline graciously gave me vouchers for a hotel and two meals. "Where," I asked, "do I catch a taxi?"

"Oh, no, there are no taxis now! There's almost ten inches of snow on the ground."

"Okay then, let me get my luggage."

"I'm sorry, sir. Your luggage is already on the plane and we can't get to it."

What had been *no problem* had turned into a *big* problem, as I had critical medicine in my suitcase, in addition to a large box of African violets from Granger Gardens, and leaves and cuttings from the Pattersons.

Tired, disgusted, and disappointed I began walking through the snow toward a hotel. Remember, I was dressed for spring - a sport shirt and jacket and light pants. The cold, wet snow went through to my skin, and I must have looked quite pathetic.

Once checked in at the front desk, I made my way to the room. As my wet, chilled hands fumbled with the lock I had the eerie feeling that someone was on the other side of the door. Suddenly the door flew open and a really big man (a lot bigger than me) gruffly said, "Whadda ya tryin' to do, pal?" H-m-m-m, I thought, his flight must have been canceled, too. I quickly retreated to the front desk and got another room key.

After a miserable night on a too soft, too noisy bed, I got up to a bright, sunshiny day. Things were getting better - they had to, and soon I was winging my way back home. And the plants and leaves? They survived Cleveland's record snowfall in a twelve-hour period and did well.

Most Important Interview

In late 1988 I received a call from then editor of the AVM, Jane Birge. "David, I have to tell you something very important, but you cannot share this with anyone else, okay?"

How could I say no? Of course I would not tell anyone.

"We have just seen a yellow African violet," she told me. "We saw it! It's not a bright canary, but it is definitely yellow, and the hybridizer is optimistic that his breakthrough will lead to greater colors. He has come up with beautiful shades of

ivory, coral and peach when the yellow is combined with other colors."

The hybridizer was Nolan Blansit from southern Missouri, and he had kept this color breakthrough a secret until then.

"Would you be able to interview Nolan and share the announcement with our readers?" Jane asked.

Soon I was on the road to Ozark, Missouri, just south of Springfield. Nolan, his wife Cindy, and I hit it off immediately. They were a friendly, effervescent couple who were so excited about their yellows.

Soon the *African Violet Magazine* with a yellow bloom on the cover and my interview with the Blansits inside was published. Calls from across the country started coming to my home at all hours: "Who is this guy and what's his phone number?", "Tell me how to get a yellow African violet!". "Is this a hoax or what?" were typical questions.

My stock answer was that Nolan and Cindy would have the yellows on display at the annual AVSA convention in Kansas City later that year.

Although the introduction of the yellow gene and the early work of hybridizer Blansit has not resulted in a totally bright, vivid yellow, work continues. Hortense Pittman, Sidney Sorano and Don Ness are three leaders in the search for an outstanding yellow bloom.

Most Rewarding Interview

One of my most rewarding interviews of a commercial grower was with Jeannette Domiano of Gretna, Louisiana. That interview was conducted on a 4th of July weekend when the temperatures and humidity of the Deep South were devastating to this overweight Midwesterner.

Jeannette appeared hospitable, but somewhat quiet and reserved as she showed me her hybrids. Like a proud parent, she spoke very lovingly about each seedling. To her, each was special and unique. I remember how carefully and deliberately she handled each plant. She really had a deep affection for each one.

The interview was written and submitted to the AVM. After it was published, I called the editor to say that I liked the way the photos came out and the way the story was laid out.

"Have you heard about Jeannette?" I was asked.

"No, what do you mean?" I replied, already dreading the answer.

"She has cancer and is not expected to live very long."

Just a few days passed and I received a card from someone very close to Jeannette telling me of her death. "David, I want you to know that one of the last things she heard was the article you wrote being read to her by a family member. She understood it and was so appreciative of what you wrote. It really meant a lot to her to know that she had been recognized as a good hybridizer."

In the same vein was an interview with Gordon Boone. Born and raised in Red Oak, Iowa, Gordon was a talented

hybridizer who began with hybridizing begonias. He was mentored by Ernie Fisher, an outstanding African violet hybridizer in Canada, and he brought to us many outstanding introductions. Joyce Stork said it best when she told me, "Gordon hybridizes with the eye of an artist."

Winning the AVSA Bronze Medallion in 1988 for hybridizing was the crowning point for this gifted and sensitive man who never reaped the financial rewards due him.

Gordon died much too young, and we will never know to what heights he would have climbed had he lived. Upon his death, I was honored to be invited to conduct a memorial service for him in Oklahoma City. People from every walk of life were there to remember their friend who had touched the lives of so many in such a short time.

Most Unusual Interview

I have had several unusual interviews. One of the most unusual was with Patty Daniels of Cheney, Kansas. Doing business as Patty's Plants, Patty and her husband lived in the wheat country of south central Kansas. Their yard was literally surrounded by wheat on three sides.

I drove down one June afternoon just as the ripe wheat was a golden brown and would be harvested any day. What a beautiful sight it is to see "amber waves of grain" as the breezes create an undulating motion similar to the gentle waves of an ocean.

Patty and her husband invited me to dine with them after the interview, which I accepted. As we ate, the sun began to set. The approaching darkness triggered a cacophony of frog croaks and chirps within their ranch style home. It turned out that Patty loved animals but was allergic to animal hair and fur. So she chose frogs as pets.

In her home she had a huge collection of frogs from around the world.

Each variety was kept in a separate aquanum or large bowl. Many were colorful and active. Others were drab and sluggish but they all made noise when dusk approached. A most unusual experience.

Most Enjoyable Interview

Every interview is enjoyable as I talk and learn about African violets and the stories surrounding them. I am hard pressed to label one the most enjoyable, but my first visit with Hortense and Ray Pittman will always be very special.

I first met Hortense and "Sundown" in 1977 at the AVSA Convention in St. Louis, and instantly knew they were wonderful and caring people. Over the years I would see them at conventions, and my love and appreciation for them grew at every meeting.

When business took me to San Antonio in 1986, I called Hortense and asked for an opportunity to interview them. With her affirmative reply came a generous invitation to stay in their home.

I learned a great deal those two days with the Pittmans, about the laughter, the love of life, and the affection between husband and wife. I feel I had a rare insight into two uncommon individuals.

Several delicious meals were served, but one dish stands out in my memory. One morning for breakfast, Hortense served jalapeno grits. That was a novel combination for me, coming from the Midwest. Sure, I had eaten jalapeno peppers before, and hominy grits, but the two together reflected the Tex-Mex style that is so popular in Texas. And yes, it was a very delicious combination!

Most Courageous Grower

One of my personal heroes was Dick Maduro of Gainesville, Florida, who passed away in June of this year. Dick and his wife Ann used to own The Violet House. They specialized in selling supplies of all kinds needed to grow African violets. This, as you can imagine, involved lots of lifting and moving about. Soil is mixed and packed. Orders are filled and packaged for shipping across the country.

What was courageous about Dick was that he was totally paralyzed from the waist down and was confined to a wheelchair. A motorcycle accident robbed Dick of feeling and movement in half of his body, but his dignity and independence were intact.

For many years, Dick and Ann had a sales table at AVSA conventions where they made their supplies and catalogs available. In all my conversations with Dick, never had I heard a complaint. His successful business was testimony of his inner strength and fortitude.

Most Painful Interview

A few years ago I contacted Reinhold Holtkamp of Holtkamp Greenhouses in Nashville, TN, to see if I could interview them. In a few days I received a beautifully printed invitation to attend a reception honoring their 10th anniversary in this country.

I planned to fly down one day and return the next so as not to miss much time from my office. During the day I was to leave home I got caught in a drenching downpour. Later that day I flew from Kansas City to Nashville by way of Chicago. By the time I left home, my nose and sinuses were congested and my throat was sore. I felt uncomfortable the first part of the trip, and by the time I left Chicago I had excruciating pain in my ears.

The extreme pain intensified until I couldn't hear. Perspiration dripped from my fevered face. Never before have I had such pain - never again, I pray.

Landing in Nashville didn't give me much relief. The plane was late, and the terminal almost empty, as I made my way to the taxi stand. No taxis were in sight.

"Hey buddy! Where ya goin'?" came a voice from behind me.

"Sorry," I said, "I can't hear too well tonight. Where can I catch a taxi?" I asked the seedy-looking man who had suddenly appeared.

"Aw, ya can't now. They quit runnin' about an hour ago. Where ya'll goin' to?"

"I just want to get in bed. I usually stay at the Howard Johnson's on the north side of town."

"No problem, man. Me and my buddy will take you there for five bucks."

The stranger was unshaven and unfriendly-looking, and ordinarily, it would have taken me only a second to say "no", but the trip and the pain had slipped my brain into slow motion. Sensing my hesitation, the stranger persisted, "C'mon, man. We'll have you there in no time."

Reluctantly, and against my better judgment, I agreed, and headed for the run-down car at the curb. Just as I eased myself into the rusty, dented car, a third man quickly emerged from the shadows of a nearby pillar and said, "Hey, I'm goin' with ya'll!"

If I felt ill at first, the dark foreboding I then felt was even worse. When I hesitated again, one of the men said, with irritation and impatience in his voice, "Come on, hurry up - let's go!"

Off we went, into the darkness. They murmured among themselves. I could not hear well enough to listen, and it is probably just as well. I envisioned the next day's headlines: "Unidentified male found in drainage ditch near airport!"

I began to pray. As a boy, I learned in Sunday School and church of guardian angels. I asked God for a guardian angel to protect me.

Suddenly, the driver veered off the paved road onto a smooth, grassy area. At a high rate of speed, we passed through either a golf course or a huge lawn, or maybe even a cemetery. I couldn't tell for certain.

After what seemed like miles, we flew up onto a freeway going eighty-five miles an hour. I politely asked the driver to slow down, but he assured me that he "jes' want(ed) to get you to the hotel as soon as possible." He succeeded in doing that. As soon we pulled into the driveway of the hotel I said a quick Thank You, God, for guardian angels.

With no more than a "Thanks, guys," I quickly gave the driver his \$5.00 and went to the front desk without a backward glance.

I woke up the next morning with pain in my ears and still unable to hear. A taxi took me to a local hospital where I found my way to the emergency room. The diagnosis: a severe inner ear infection.

"Oh, yes, one more thing," the doctor told me, "don't fly in the meantime or you could suffer permanent damage to your ear." The alternative was a twenty-two-hour ride home on a Greyhound bus.

Later that day, I went to Holtkamp Greenhouses and did the interview. Cordial and hospitable, the Holtkamps sensed

my discomfort and tried to accommodate me the best they could. At the reception that afternoon, I was seated with Anne and Frank Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses and Libby and Bob Glembocki of Bluebird Greenhouses of Apex, North Carolina. I think we had a good time, but not being able to hear, still in pain, and on medication, I am not sure.

Margit Holtkamp was kind enough to take me to the Greyhound Bus Terminal following the reception. Any other time I would have dreaded that long ride home on a bus, but the experience of the night before made me thankful to be going anywhere.

The Most Interesting Character

Because we shared a mutual love for African violets, all of the commercials I have met have endeared themselves to me. However, one unique and memorable personality is Winston Smith of Liberty, Texas. Winston is widely known for his work with variegated African violets he called the Wranglers.

From that series name, I envisioned Winston to be a tall, thin, bowlegged cowboy who raised cattle and attended rodeos in his spare time. What I found in southeast Texas was an articulate, well-educated man who had devoted his life to teaching high school.

In addition to his wide and eclectic interests, Winston's seven gorgeous champagne-colored Cocker Spaniels stand out in my memory. These beautiful dogs live with Winston and the outstanding golden guppies he also breeds.

The past forty interviews have afforded me the rich opportunity to meet and know the leaders in the field of hybridizing, growing and selling African violets.

John Donne wrote:

"No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were,
As well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were.
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind;
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee."

Indeed, we are not isolated from one another. Rather, we are connected and interconnected with each other by our love for the African violet - one of God's special creations.

As we continue our visits to AVSA commercial members, you are invited to accompany us by means of the printed page. Hopefully, we will visit your favorite next.

“Partner, Join the Lone Star Violet Round-up!”

1999 AVSA International Convention

April 4 - 11, 1999

Houston, Texas

As you arrive in Houston what you will NOT see is the sleepy little frontier town of the last century, the first capitol of the state, named for General Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas. In 1836, the Allen brothers established a small riverboat landing on Buffalo Bayou. Early immigrants arriving at the port of Indianola made this thriving community their first stop. They purchased oxen, carts and supplies for the harsh journey west on the Old San Antonio Road through the central Brazos River corridor.

By 1880, commerce boomed, thanks to those early efforts of the Allen brothers who enticed many merchants to the area with the advertisement of cheap land. Main Street, however, still remained a muddy, dirt road where horse-drawn wagons and children at play often competed with rowdy wranglers driving cattle through the center of town.

A series of hurricanes at the turn of the century devastated the Gulf coast. Houston became the largest commercial hub in the area. Soon after, the development of the oil industry led to further growth. By the Thirties, the Houston Ship Channel had linked the city to the Gulf of Mexico approximately fifty miles away. The city was well on its way to becoming one of the busiest and largest metropolitan areas in the nation.

Those early days are in stark contrast to the Houston of today. Modern Houstonians were left a legacy. Individuals such as Will Marsh Rice, Judge Roy Hoffines, the de Menils and Ben Taub soon took the lead and set examples of community generosity that the rest of the state would

follow: the establishment of universities, law and order, and the creation of hospitals and churches, the cornerstone of a prosperous community. That tradition prevails in Houston today.

Today, what you WILL see is a culturally diverse, modern city, the most populous city in the state and fourth largest in the nation. It is a hub for international commerce and medical research, and home to the energy industry and space technology. The port moves over 85 million tons of cargo annually, making it the third largest in the U.S. The city is rich in culture, housing five major museums, seventy-five art galleries and resident companies in music, opera, ballet and theater. Residents are very proud of the six universities and colleges in the area, several of which internationally known.

Even with the growing pains of progress, modern Houstonians take great pride in a beautiful city steeped with traditional Texas hospitality. It is on this note that the Lone Star African Violet Council welcomes you to this unique metropolis of the Southwest.

LSAVC hopes your stay here is enjoyable, filled with renewed friendships and new information about our hobby. Begin planning your entries now for the show. Participate in the activities at the convention. Find that one elusive African violet you have always wanted. Take a tour or explore on your own, but see the area. Above all, have fun!

Watch the AVM and web site for further details. Make your reservations early. See you in Houston!





What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



More News on Foliar Feeding

by Leta Moser and Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities
Ball State University, Muncie IN 47306

Our previous article (Moser and Smith, 1998) reported that foliar feeding did not affect African violet growth. These findings were contrary to many other reports (Burns, 1986; Green, 1986; Mackey, 1983; Robey, 1980; Welch, 1988) which state that foliar feeding is a positive way to aid plant growth. A potential problem discussed in our paper was that the plants used in the experiment might have been under stress for water due to the capillary watering system used. Because of the possible watering problem and the conflict of the results with the reports of others, a second experiment was conducted.

The purpose of the second experiment was to verify the previous results and to examine some additional variables concerning foliar feeding. The first variable was to change the watering system from a capillary watering action method to a direct wicking system, placing the wick in direct contact with the water supply. The second variable was to see if the type of hairs on the leaf affected foliar feeding. Two different types of leaf hairs exist on African violets. Erect hairs, which have a close to ninety degree angle with the surface of the leaf making the hair stand away from the surface; and appressed hairs, which lie directly on the top of the leaf so that the hairs run parallel to the surface. The third and perhaps most important change in this experiment was the deliberate act of nutrient starving the plants. The plants used in the experiment were not given any fertilizer through the roots. Under these conditions, if there were any way the plants could absorb nutrients through foliar feeding, the results should be readily visible and apparent.

Plants with two different leaf hair types were needed to conduct the experiment. The parent stock plants were siblings from a cross of *Saintpaulia velutina* and *S. magungensis* var. *magungensis*. One plant had the erect hairs of the *S. velutina* parent while its sibling had the appressed hairs of the *S. magungensis* parent. Although one plant was darker green in color than the other, the use of siblings was anticipated to keep many of the genetic factors similar between the plants except for the leaf hairs. Plantlets were reproduced from leaf cuttings from the stock plants for use in the experiment.

The methods of this experiment were similar to that of the previous. The experiment began with 16 plants with erect hairs and 12 plants with appressed hairs. The plants were further divided into two groups, half to serve as controls and half to receive foliar feeding. The plants were pot-

ted in a 1:1:1 ratio of perlite, vermiculite, and peat moss and were grown in the Ball State University greenhouse. The plants were placed on egg crating and watered by a direct wicking to a tray of water. No fertilizer was added to the water, therefore, the only nutrients the plants received were those already in the soil mixture or through foliar feeding. The control plants of each leaf hair type were foliar fed distilled water once a week. The experimental plants were foliar fed using an Optimara® fertilizer (14-12-14, 1/4 teaspoon per gallon) which was the stronger of the two fertilizers used in the previous experiment. The plants were foliar fed as described in the previous experiment, using a plastic bib to prevent run-off from reaching the roots. The plants were grown and foliar fed for three months. At the end of this time, the plants were harvested and the fresh root and shoot weights were taken. After the plants had been dried, the dry weights were also taken and an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test was run on the fresh and dry weights.

At the conclusion of the experiment, it was observed that there were no visual differences among the plants. All of the plants, control and experimental, looked a sick, light-green color. All of the plants were very small and stunted in growth. The plants were undersized for their age and were not flowering. These symptoms suggested that the plants were suffering from nutrient starvation. Further evidence that the plants were highly stressed for nutrients can be found in their mortality rate. The appressed hair plants suffered 50% mortality by the conclusion of the experiment. The erect hair plants had an 18% mortality rate. The cause of death appeared to be starvation from the lack of nutrients.

The visual similarity of the plants was confirmed by the ANOVA results (Table 1). No significant differences ($p=.05$) were found for any of the weights (fresh or dry) or for plant part (shoots or roots). The plants that were foliar fed with the fertilizer solution were not any different in weight than plants that had been foliar fed with distilled water. One may notice what appears to be a fairly large difference in weights when the numbers are compared vertically in the table. However, because of the high mortality rate lowering the sample size in the treatments, the ANOVA test failed to find any significant differences between the weights.

Since the plants were not given any root-applied fertilizer over the three months, they would have been dependent on the soil mix or foliar feeding to supply their nutrient needs. The soil-less mix used in the experiment would have

contained very little nutrients for plant growth and should have been exhausted quickly by the plants. The sickly green color of the plants and their failure to grow suggests that the plants were nutrient starved. The lack of nutrients is also supported by the high mortality rate of the plants. It is unclear why the mortality rate was higher for the appressed leaf hair plants, but this cultivar did appear to be somewhat less robust in growth when compared to the sibling with erect leaf hairs.

Leaf hair type was one of the variables tested in this experiment. It was hypothesized that the erect hairs would allow more surface area of the leaf to be exposed to absorb nutrients through foliar feeding. The appressed leaf hairs were hypothesized to act as a blanket of sorts, covering the leaf surface and not allowing the nutrient solution to penetrate through to the leaf's vascular system. Thus, the erect hair plants should have been able to absorb more nutrients during foliar feeding and should show the better growth. The results, however, found no significant differences in root/shoot or fresh/dry weights between the leaf hair types. Therefore, it appears that erect hair plants are not able to absorb nutrients through foliar feeding better than those with appressed leaf hairs.

The results of this experiment did not find that foliar feeding is an effective way to supply nutrients to African violets. Plants that were foliar fed distilled water were not significantly different than plants that were foliar fed with Optimara fertilizer. Since the plants had been grown under conditions of nutrient stress, it seems logical that they would absorb nutrients from any source available, including foliar feeding. Since the plants did not respond to foliar feeding, it appears that they are not capable of absorbing nutrients through this method. Therefore, the results of this experiment support those of the previous study that foliar feeding does not affect the growth of African violets.

Acknowledgments:

Support for this study was made available from Ball State University and the Indiana Academy of Science.

Literature Cited

Burns, M. 1986. Foliar Feeding of African Violets. *African Violet Magazine* 39(3):35.

Green, B.L. 1986. Foliar Feeding: A Diet Supplement. *African Violet Magazine* 39(2):14.

Mackey, H.N. 1983. Foliar Feeding. *African Violet Magazine* 36(2):30-31.

Moser, L. and J. Smith. 1998. Concerning Foliar Feeding. *African Violet Magazine* 51(2):32-33.

Robey, M.J. 1980. *African Violets* A.S. Barnes & Co., Inc., San Diego.

Welchel, L.C. 1988. Some Thoughts and Observations on Foliar Feeding. *African Violet*

Table 1. Average Mass in Grams

	Fresh Root	Fresh Shoot	Dry Root	Dry Shoot
Control Erect N=6	.43	1.75	.05	.13
Optimara Erect N=7	.48	1.93	.06	.14
Control Appressed N=3	.72	2.58	0.8	.14
Optimara Appressed N=3	.56	1.53	.07	.21

In Memory

ELIZABETH GATLIN ABRAHAM

Elizabeth Gatlin Abraham, Memphis, TN, passed away in March, 1998. A member of AVSA and the Bluff City AVC, she grew many beautiful violets and earned many blue ribbons for her show entries.

PATRICIA C. ISBELL

An active member of AVSA and the Desert Sun AVS of Phoenix, AZ, Patricia C. Isbell, passed away in May 1998. Pat had a unique perspective on life and any job she was asked to do. Her passions were growing beautiful African violets and orchids. In 1946, Pat was awarded the US Medal of Freedom for exceptionally meritorious achievement.

Showcase

Cathy's Fireworks

Best In Class

1998 National Show

Semiminiature

Exhibited by: Dorothy Kosowsky

Hybridized by: C. Cornibe

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Sunnyside Roma

Best In Class

1998 National Show

Exhibited by: Irene Boro

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





Favorite Child

From Best AVSA Collection

1998 National Show

Standard

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: Cox/B. Johnson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Nob Hill

Standard

Exhibited by: Irene Boro

Hybridized by: G. Beck

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Finding Them Where They Are

Bev Promersberger - Affiliate Committee

17415 Charter Pines Drive

Monument, CO 80132

In my last column, in the May issue, I stated that I would begin to discuss some creative ways of attracting new members. The most effective and modern method in this day of computers and the internet is the AVSA web site. As one person so aptly put it, "Find them where they are." The web site has been available for affiliate information for a few months, and it has already proven successful. One member told me that their affiliate got three new members as a result of their information on the web site. Another said they had six visitors as a result of being listed on the web site and three of those joined AVSA the first visit.

You have all had invitations to take advantage of this FREE publicity through the web site, at convention and in the March issue of the *African Violet Magazine*. Not even half of you have taken advantage of this offer. What do you need to do?

1. Have someone in your affiliate with internet access check the AVSA web site (<http://www.AVSA.org/affiliates>) to see if the information concerning your affiliate is listed.
2. Check to see if the information is correct and complete. If there are changes or additions that should be made, please e-mail clubs@avsa.org with those changes or additions.
3. Check with your members to see if anyone has a form from convention and has sent or is planning to send it in. Many members at convention took copies of the information form available. Unfortunately, only a few have followed through by sending the information to me.
4. If the information is not entered at all and no one seems to know anything about it, please e-mail the following information to clubs@avsa.org. Check the web site a week or two later to see if the information was entered, complete and correct.

Please complete as much of the following information as your affiliate wants listed. Remember your entry might be read by someone new or unfamiliar to your location. You can e-mail clubs@avsa.org this information to me or you can send it to the address above.

I want to tell you now much I have enjoyed the year-books and newsletters you sent me this past year. Even

though there is no longer any competition for them at convention, they are still valuable to your affiliate and I get many ideas from them to share. I appreciate those of you who even put me on your newsletter mailing list. I read them from cover to cover and am hopeful you will continue to send them. With no restrictions as to size and content, many of you have become even more creative, keeping the needs of the affiliate members in mind. Keep up the good work.

If there is anyone reading this column who is not a member of an affiliate, be sure to check the 1998 Affiliated Club list in this issue of the magazine. If you don't find a club near you, you may contact me to see if anyone else in your area has contacted me regarding starting an affiliate. I keep a list and have been able to connect some members in the same location so as to start an affiliate together. You might be next. If not, I can send you a packet of materials that we have assembled to assist even the novice grower to begin a club or study group.

One last but very important point - be sure when you share magazines or culture folders with prospective members of AVSA that you have the current address and magazine subscription price listed. An outdated membership price not only creates more time and effort for the office to request the additional amount, but often creates unhappy feelings on the part of the new member. Please make every effort to change outdated information.

In the January issue, we will continue to discuss ways to attract new members. We will feature the methods used by our council to attract the most new members of any affiliate for the last two years, enabling us to win the Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award.

Let's continue to share and grow together.

1. Name of affiliate
2. Near city — this is very useful because the town or city in which you live or meet might be small or unknown (just one city please).
3. Meeting - this includes the day of the month, months you meet (i. e. "September through May" or "except July and December"). If you do not list anything it is assumed that you meet all twelve months of the year.

Don't forget the time of your meeting.

4. Location of meeting - Building name, address, city, state and ZIP. When listing an address, please be complete. One could not write from out of town without a zip code.
 5. Contact name - Again if you list an address, please be complete, including a zip code. You can list address, phone and e-mail for your contact. You can also list your affiliate's web page address. The address is good because someone might have gotten the information from a friend who has internet access and they might want to write prior to moving to a new location. The phone is good for last minute and easy contact. E-mail is good if contact can be made a few days in advance. The more information you have, the better chance you have of being contacted regarding your affiliate. I can use two different contact names, one for phone and address and another for e-mail.
 6. Suggestions for additional information: 1.) who is eligible to join, 2.) your annual show (if you have a show on a certain weekend or month each year, i.e. Mother's Day weekend, March or April, or fall). **This should NOT include a specific date for an upcoming show.** That is for "Coming Events" and should be sent into the office in time to meet magazine deadlines.
- I also want to refer you to the July *African Violet*

Magazine and the article entitled, "A Helping Hand into the Future", (page 10). It is a very timely project for your club to pursue. It has the possibility of immediate new members as well as members from future generations.

All affiliates should check the 1998 AVSA Affiliated Clubs list in the center section of this month's AVM to assure that the president listed is current. If not, send a change to the AVSA office via e-mail or regular mail. The office needs the current names of the president and treasurer. The current president assures that any correspondence is sent to the correct address and that anyone who reads the magazine has a current address by which to contact your affiliate. The current treasurer assures that the right person receives the affiliate billing and prevents any confusion regarding your affiliate status.

While you are checking the affiliate list, you might also check the commercial and judges' listings. You never know if a new name might appear on either of those lists. You could see a new judge listed as the result of the judge's exam taken at convention or a summer move to a new location. It is easier for your affiliate to make contact with that new judge by way of a simple post card or phone call than for that judge to try to find out where and when you meet. Believe me, I've tried it!



BLAKE'S AUNT DORIS

by Blake Mayfield • Rogers, TX

I think the world of my aunt, Doris Acree, and she got me interested in African violets. Aunt Doris had been a member of the "Happiness Is" African Violet Club in Colorado for several years. I can remember going to Colorado to visit Aunt Doris and Uncle Cecil, standing amazed at their back door as I looked up at the mountains, then going into the house and being overwhelmed again by all of the beautifully blooming African violets. When my visit was over, I carried a box of African violets home.

Aunt Doris taught me that you just can't have *one* African violet. It took me a while to learn to grow the plants, but if I lost some, Aunt Doris would send me boxes through the mail, and it was just like Christmas all over again!

She has always said if you grow African violets, you need to be in an African violet club. It took me several years before I finally became a member of the Cen-Tex Rainbow African Violet Club. This group is made up of some of the most enjoyable and knowledgeable people that I have ever

met. Our members are all outstanding growers with a wealth of information to share.

At our show and sale last April I was honored to win Best in Show and many other awards. My success was a direct result of what I

have learned from Aunt Doris and the members of the club. Our club is like a family; we work together as a team and have a wonderful time.

Today with several hundred African violets, many varieties of episcias, *Streptocarpus*, and other gesneriads, I'm running out of space! I have recently begun hybridizing, and hopefully something good will come from it.

Thanks, Aunt Doris! You got me started, and I hope I can live up to your expectations, someday helping someone else discover the rewards of growing America's favorite houseplant.



Blake & Doris

Showcase

Rob's Twinkle Blue

New Introduction

1998 National Show

Miniature

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Ralph Robinson

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



Rob's Macho Devil

Semiminiature

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Ralph Robinson

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 1998

¹AVSA Judges, ^xSenior Judges, ^MMaster Judges,
^sStudent Judges, ^TTeachers and ^{ME}Master Emeritus

INTERNATIONAL CANADA ALBERTA

- ^s Bowes, Lil, 17321- 60 Ave NW, Edmonton T6M 1E9
- ¹ Corbett, Sharon J, 8206162 St, Edmonton T5R 2L7
- ¹ Den Oudsten, Maida, 4424 35 Ave SW, Calgary T3E 1B3
- ¹ Douglas, Mrs. F M, 232 Southampton Dr S W, Calgary T2W 0V7
- ^x Goretsky, Winston J, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary T3L 2B2
- ¹ Gratto, Mrs. M R, 4206 33 St, Red Deer T4N 0N2
- ¹ Hargesheimer, Erika E, 81 Woodpath Terrace S W, Calgary T2W 5Z6
- ¹ Jarratt, Margaret V, 120, Oak Church Place SW, Calgary T2V 4B5
- ^s Liberty, Gabriela, 321 1 60 St NE, Calgary T1Y 3L3
- ^s Lowndes, Margaret, 4935 Marcombe Rd NE, Calgary T2A 4JS
- ¹ Melnechuk, Jean, 332 Point McKay Cdw Nw, Calgary Alberta T3R 4V8
- ¹ Mitchell, Mrs L, 12911-82 St, Edmonton T5E 2T3
- ¹ Nagy, Betty, 424 Douglasbank Court SE, Calgary T2Z 1X1
- ¹ Rousseau, Elizabeth A, #30 10401 19 St SW, Calgary T2W 3E7
- ¹ Salamanowicz, Mr Walter, 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6
- ¹ Urano, Gwen A, 3620 - 58 Ave S W, Calgary Alb T3E 5H6
- ^x Wonnacott, S L, 16 Abbotsford Place NE, Calgary T2A 6V2

NEW BRUNSWICK

- ^x Bell, Mrs Jean, Codys RR 4, Queens County EOE 1E0
- ^x Belliveau, Mrs Eva, 10 Vista Dr, Moncton E1A 4L5
- ^s Boyd, Sherin, 211 Charlotte St, Saint John E2M 1Y2
- ¹ Brooks, Susan A, 260 Douglas Ave, Saint John E2K 1E6
- ^x Hughes, M Louise, 14 McArthur Ave, Moncton E1C 3L8
- ^x Moffett, Mrs Anne, 80 Moffett Ave, Sussex E4E 3Y1

NOVA SCOTIA

- ¹ Beaver, Ina, 2 Shamrock Dr, Dartmouth B3A 2Y7
- ¹ Brown, Anne M, 2831 Doug Smith Dr, Halifax B3L 3T6
- ^s Leblanc, Elise, 3497 Rowe Ave, Halifax B3L 4C8
- ^{TX} Wiseman, Lois, 45 Shea St, Sackville B42 2BC

ONTARIO

- ^s Beeching, Vivian, 648 Hillman Cres, Mississauga L4Y 2H9
- ¹ Biljan, Angelle, 5 Oakridge Blvd, Nepean K2G 2T6
- ^x Brownlie, Doris M, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga L5A 2B4
- ¹ Carrick-Wedel, Lucy, 14 Hiawatha Rd, Toronto M4L 2X8
- ¹ Conlin Lane, Carolyn, 57 Hillbeck Cres, Scarborough M1B 2M8
- ¹ Dawson, Mrs. M T, 36 High Street, Hamilton L8T 3Z3
- ¹ Ellwood, Mrs. J D, 10 Doris Ave, Gloucester K1T 3W8
- ^x Elston, Eleanor, 4 Superior Ave #18, Toronto M8V 2M4
- ^{TX} Harriman, Mr. R F, 2395 Ogilvie Rd, Ottawa K1J 7N4
- ¹ Heazle, Ralph, 214-A Equestrian Dr, Kanata K2M 1E2
- ¹ Jago, P W, 6 Eagle Rock Way, Stitsville K2S 1C9
- TM Lex, Sandra, 70 Enfield Ave, Toronto M8W 1T9
- ¹ Maguire, Diane, 1580 Shale Oak Mews, Mississauga L4W 2L7
- ¹ McCabe, Mr Robert, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa K1G 2Y5

- ^{TX} Tapping, Elizabeth A, 1512-511 The West Mall Etobicoke M9C 1G5
- ^s Toms, James C, 59 Merrygale Cres, Islington M9B 5N9
- ¹ Westbrook, Bill, 848 Acadian Gardens, Orleans K1C 2V6
- ^x Williams, Mrs Beverley, 3052 Grenville Dr, Mississauga L5A 2P7
- ¹ Wolfe, Mrs Inez, 3536 Autumn Leaf Cir, Mississauga L5L 1K5
- ¹ Yaremko, Mrs Daphne, 1-211 Pine Valley Dr, London N6J 4W5
- ^s Young, Bruce, 1-15 Acacia Ave, Ottawa, K1M 0P3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- ^x Lewis, Mrs Hilda, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown C1A 3Y9

QUEBEC

- ^s Bellehumeur, Marie, 15 Dorius St, Repentigny J6A 4X9
- ¹ Charbonneau, Nicole, 1061 47 Ave, Montreal H1A 2Z1
- ^x Croteau, Denis, 3055 Ter Abenakis, Longueuil J4M 2B6
- ^M Durand, Greta, #317-21 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire H9S 5N3
- ^s Gagnon, Denise, 269 Rue Senecal, Longueuil J4G 1M8
- ¹ Gagnon, Marie, 1571 Sabrevois, Beloeil J3G 6A6
- ^s Gendron, Claire, 4819 Place Henri-Valade App 4, Montreal H1Y 3G7
- ^x Henry, Mrs Irene, 349 Hyman Dr, Dollard Des Ormeaux H9B 1 L5
- ¹ Herbatuk, Mrs Anne, 2400 Auvergne, Duvemay Laval, H7E 1Z4
- ¹ Johnston-Newman, Nancy, 127 Spartan Cres, Pointe-Claire, H9R 3H4
- ^s Lemieux, Lucienne, 2193 St Stanislas St, Jonquiere G7S 2R2
- ^s Martin, Rene, 2355 Lavallee, Longueuil J4L 1R3
- ^s Paradis, Michel, 2688 Oxford, Longueuil J4L 2M6
- ¹ Pigeon, Jean-Marc, 1260 Rue Pierre Floquet, St Luc J2W 1X3
- ¹ Pigeon, Monique, 1260 Rue Pierre Floquet, St Luc J2W 1X3
- ^s Pilon, Francine, 8120 Boul Langelier Apt 6, St Leonard H1P 2B9
- ¹ Santopietro, Diane, 7020 Lacordaire, St Leonard H1S 2A4
- ^s Simard, Annie, 156 Eleanor, Otterburn Park J37 1T5
- ^s Turcotte, Jocelyne, 2120 Goyer St, Chomedey H7T 1X1

ENGLAND

- ¹ Goodship-Patience, Miss Gwen, 33 Common Rd Langley Slough, Berks SL3 8JZ

JAPAN

- ^s Horikoshi, Mr Kazuo, 2-39-9 Higashioozumi, Nerimaku 178-0063

SOUTH AFRICA

- ^{TX} Halford, C C, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria 0049

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

- TM Breckenridge, J M, 1042 19th Ave S, Birmingham 35205-6458
- ^x Buie, Mrs. Sherry, 1210 Scenic View Dr, Dothan 36303-1957
- ^M Eichelberger, Ruby T, 1409 10th St S, Birmingham 35205-4519

- * Ferguson, Donalda, 5831 Oakwild Dr., Montgomery 36117-2919
- † Jackson, Michael, 1220 14th St N, Bessemer 35020-4676
- ™ Lockhart, Mrs Roy, PO Box 660051, Birmingham 35266-0051
- * Moseley, Mary H, 710 Duval Dr, Montgomery 36109-3802
- ™ Phythyon, Peg, 852 Haggerty Rd, Wetumpka 36093-3316
- * Price, Mary F, 748 Dubuque Dr, Montgomery 36109-2510
- * Sisler, Mrs. Orland O, 2833 Ashley Ave, Montgomery 36109-2017
- * Strock, Mrs Barbara, 1681 Al Highway 143, Elmore 36025-1520
- * Thomley, Christie D, 2602 Evans Dr., Dothan 36303-2131
- * Till, Doris, 2927 Canterbury Ct, Montgomery 36111-1225

ALASKA

- * Gordon, Patricia M, PO Box 878809, Wasilla 99687-8809

ARIZONA

- † Fuller, Mrs Barbara, 409 S Kenyon Dr., Tucson 85710-1043
- † Jolivet, Mrs Georgette, 15226 S Power Rd Apt 1011, Higley 85236-6214
- * Loomis, Ruth, 603 N San Francisco St., Flagstaff 86001-3230
- † Schierl, Rosemary, 7000 N 16th St # 120465, Phoenix 85020-5547

ARKANSAS

- * Brown, Jerome E, HC 73 Box 118, Marble Falls 72648-9714
- † Robertson, Glenda, 5 Worthington Ct, Little Rock 72212-1300
- † Toalson, Betty, 3 Ponca St., Sherwood 72120-2516
- * Walker, Mrs M D, 619 Edinburgh Ct, Jacksonville 72076-3435
- † Walsh, Margaret, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers 72756-9245

CALIFORNIA

- † Allustiarti, Mrs Evelyn, 1812 El Verano Way, Belmont 94002-3631
- * Arakaki, Sue, 2475 Corinth Ave Apt 104, Los Angeles 90064-3070
- ™ Beck, Gary R, 1155 Pine St Apt 4, San Francisco 94109-5144
- * Boddy, Pat, 2232 Maxine Way, Rancho Cordova 95670-2019
- † Borck, Byron, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- * Borck, Heath, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- ™ Borck, Heather, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa 95403-2632
- ™ Breden, Ralph, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach 90277-6433
- † Chase, Celine K, 482 Rutherford Ave, Redwood City 94061-4214
- * Comibe, Mrs Cathy, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442
- † Cox, Leslie, 208 Maynard Ave, Newbury Park 91320-4264
- † Eisenhut, Jacquie, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011
- ™ Elkin, Barbara Jane, 2855 Gayle Ln, Auburn 95602-9674
- † Fallaw, June, PO Box 8157, Pittsburg 94565-8157
- † Gawienowski, D, 1140 Northumberland Dr, Sunnyvale 94087-1709
- * Gealy, Carroll B, 1924 Elmsbury Rd, Westlake Village 91361-3509
- † Geck, Honey, 8381 Daren Cir, Huntington Beach 92646-2127
- † Grafelmann, Mr Fred, 1447 32nd Ave, San Francisco 94122-3136
- † Gregory, Mary, 5116 W 137th Pl, Hawthorne 90250-6539
- † Hoefler, Edward E, 607 Virginia Rd, Fullerton 92831-1839
- † Hoover, Darryl, 1812 Southgate Ave, Fullerton 92833-3734
- * Inpin, Hans, 5412 Via Carrizo, Laguna Hills 92653-3092
- ™ Jantzen, Anne, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell 95008-2759
- * Keating, Iris L, 149 Loretto Ct, Claremont 91711-1739
- † Kenny, Jacklyn, PO Box 428, Crockett 94525-0428
- ™ King, Frances C, 3327 28th St, San Diego 92104-4524
- * Kosowsky, Mrs Dorothy, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier 90601-1016
- † Lawson, Floyd L, 1100 W Huntington Dr Apt 21, Arcadia 91007-6302

- † Linkswiler, Rita, 12512 Prairie Rose Way, Bakersfield 93312-3569
- † McCanne, Gini, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont 91711-3461
- ™ McCoy, Ruth Jo, 605 Pringle Ave Spc 44, Galt 95632-8749
- † Mendes, Leona M, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park 95682-9079
- * Naylor, Florence, PO Box 1411, Ventura 93002-1411
- † Orcholski, Chrisy, 8381 Daren Cir, Huntington Beach 92646-2127
- † Parker, Vera, 214 W Mayfair Ave, Stockton 95207-5109
- * Poss, Mrs. Francis, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo, 94403-4311
- * Purins, Ms Sandy, 25399 The Old Rd Unit 16209, Stevenson Ranch 91381-1629
- † Ragan, Vivien, 2026 Beach St, Concord 94519-2506
- † Rapske, Kathleen, 1072 S Mountvale Ct, Anaheim 92808-2107
- † Re, Leonard, 9144 Helm Ave, Fountain Valley 92708-4435
- * Roberson, Betty S, 3612 Laredo St, Carlsbad 92008-2172
- ™ Rosenfeld, Mrs Lawrence, 2030 Junction Ave, El Cerrito 94530-1765
- * Shaver, Marcia L, 1187 Buckingham Dr, Thousand Oaks 91360-5204
- * Shipley, Mrs Jean, 3238 Preble Ave, Ventura 93003-4808
- † Thomas, W, 1199 Lyons St, Redwood City 94061-2262
- † Thornburg, Don, 10137 Daisy King Dr, Grass Valley 95949-9239
- * Wang, Mrs Ann, 120 S 4th St, Santa Paula 93060-2605
- * Weaver, Doris R, 3940 Alvarado Ave, Stockton 95204-2303
- † Willoughby, Kathy, PO Box 458, Clayton 94517-0458
- † Wood, Enid, 45 Hallmark Cir, Menlo Park 94025-6682

COLORADO

- † Curtis, Linda, 7161 Pierce St, Arvada 80003-3607
- † Hann, Mrs. Richard C, 3338 S Glencoe St, Denver 80222-7520
- * Kiesling, Ella A, 475 Madison St, Denver 80206-4438
- † Levine, Nelly, 8797 Iris St, Arvada 80005-1233
- † Miller, Jean Marie, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada 80003-3943
- † Mitchell, Shirley, 2200 Stanford Rd, Fort Collins 80525-1415
- * Olander, Mrs Martha, 3333 E Florida Ave Apt 21, Denver 80210-2541
- * Otto, Norah E, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route, Nederland 80466-9626
- ™ Promersberger, Mrs Beverly, 17415 Charter Pines Dr, Monument 80132-8468
- ™ Ratte, Frances, PO Box 382, Black Hawk 80422-0382
- * Schaezel, Margaret T, 2451 S Jasmine Pl, Denver 80222-6229
- † Sorensen, Mrs Janice, 8357 E Jamison Cir S, Englewood 80112-2755
- † Tracy, Parker E, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

CONNECTICUT

- † Bower, Richard C, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison 06443-2216
- * Butler, Ann W, 8 Buell St, North Haven 06473-4309
- † Fargeot, Mrs Julius, 235 Alps Rd, Branford 06405-4745
- ™ Hayes, Nancy G, 9 Cobblestone Rd, Bloomfield 06002-3003
- † Kilpatrick, Marcia G., 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton 06247-1112
- * Rourke, Edna, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton 06484-6129
- † Siegel, Sylvia L, 11 Saint Marys Ln, Norwalk 06851-2211
- † Taub, Sylvia B, 141 E View Dr, Windsor 06095-1829
- * Wallach, Mrs Lynn, 55 Red Coat Rd, Westport 06880-1414
- * Wheeler, Roger W, PO Box 263, Shelton 06484-0263
- * Wille, Susan G, 45 Ledyard Ave, Bloomfield 06002-3357

DELAWARE

- * Abramson, Mrs. D G, 4003 Greenmount Rd, Wilmington 19810-3303
- * Behnke, Wallace P, 1735 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark 19702-2027
- ™ Callaghan, Carol, 2806 Rickdale Rd, Wilmington 19810-3434
- * Celano, Theresa, 1703 N Bancroft Pkwy, Wilmington 19806-2433

- ^x Celano, Mrs Angeline, 4927 Lancaster Pike, Sedgely Farms, Wilmington 19807-2550
- ¹ McMann, Mrs. Leland J, 2421 S Lori Ln, Wilmington 19810-3405
- ¹ Pirone, Andrea, 603 Cheshire Ct, Wilmington 19808-1500
- ^s Webber, Patricia, 7 Durboraw Rd, Wilmington 19810-4101

FLORIDA

- ^s Bannister, Ronald L, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs 32708-3646
- ¹ Barnes, Dee, 2425 Harden Blvd Lot 120, Lakeland 33803-5952
- ¹ Boyer, James R, 1154 Pointe Newport Ter, Casselberry 32707-7236
- ¹ Brown, Claudette, 14189 W Hibyrd Ct, Crystal River 34429-5155
- ^s Carter, Carolee, 7554 NW 1st Pl, Plantation 33317-2264
- ¹ Carter, Catherine A, 13774 Night Hawk Ct, Jacksonville 32224-3016
- ^s Collier, Christel, 1203 Greenview Dr, Lakeland 33805-4715
- ¹ Courson, Barbara J, 527 Willow Run Knoll, Lakeland 33813-3666
- ^x Droege, Alyce D, 155 Spartan Dr, Maitland 32751-3427
- ^m Egenites, Leila M, 1409 Nottingham Dr, Naples 34109-1675
- ^m Eichenberger, Mrs William, 1544 Lime St, Clearwater, 33756-2345
- ^x Goldstein, Mrs Jack, 12900 SW 33rd Dr, Davie 33330-1246
- ^{TX} Green, Bob, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge 32955-3913
- ¹ Green, Jackie, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge 32955-3913
- ^x Hann, Mrs Dorothy, 2452 Alhambra St, Clearwater 33761-2602
- ¹ Hendershot, Eryth, 817 Johnson Ave, Lakeland 33801-5258
- ^s Jank, Stephen P, 197 Wood Hall Dr, Mulberry 33860-8522
- ¹ Johannsen, Bobbi, 14029 Fortunado Rd, Jacksonville, 32225-2003
- TM Johnson, Mrs H Steven, 4177 Versailles Dr, Orlando 32808-2289
- ¹ Kutz, Jan, 804 Rio Vista Dr, Pensacola Beach 32561-2281
- ¹ Martinez, Jo Anne, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
- ¹ Menish, J D, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon 33511-4815
- ^s Menish, Wilhelmine, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon, 33511-4815
- ^x Merritt, Louise, 4200 Croydon Rd, Pensacola 32514-6814
- ^s Mink, Janis, 430 E Dayton Cir, Fort Lauderdale 33312-1917
- ¹ Moak, Frederick E, 1007 Meadowcrest Dr, Valrico 33594-6624
- ^x Partain, Judy, 9 Hummingbird Ln, Winter Haven 33884-3111
- ^s Potter, Leticia, 2531 NE 195th St, Miami 33180-2211
- ¹ Rose, Dorothy F, 13305 Whispering Palms Pl SW Apt 203, Largo 33774-2511
- ¹ Ross, Jean Marie, 114 Reflection Blvd, Aubumdale 33823-9656
- ¹ Schwindt, Patti, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando 32806-3054
- ¹ Scott, Mrs. H B, 1 9 1 7 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral 33904-4092
- ¹ Shelton, Glenn, 8977 70th St, Pinellas Park 33782-4509
- ¹ Sims, Charline, 7950 Lancelot Dr, Pensacola 32514-6434
- ^{TX} Smith, James H, 1449 Paloma Ln, Dunedin 34698-4317
- ¹ Sprayberry, Lois R, 840 Linton Ave, Orlando 32809-6462
- ^s Stencel, Janice, 450 Mill Springs Ln, Plantation 33325-3518
- ^x Whitaker, DoDe, 2085 Leeward Ln, Merritt Island 32953-3062
- ¹ Wilson, Lynne, 645 Hudson Ave, Tampa 33606-3926

GEORGIA

- ^x Cumpton, Joan, 2 1 9 Sunset Dr, Wamer Robins 31088-4170
- ^x Cumpton, Pierce, 219 Sunset Dr, Wamer Robins, 31088-4170
- ¹ Duvall, Mrs Lois, RR 1 Box 64, Eastanollee 30538-9713
- ¹ Kotliar, Margaret, 112 Skyview Ct, Athens 30606-3847
- ^s Lewis, Betty, 935 Ridgedale Dr, Lawrenceville 30043-3228
- ^s McGaha, Sarah W, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming, 30040-5207
- ^x Moffatt, Helen, 41 83 Quinn Dr, Evans 30809-4819
- ¹ Walker, Laura L, 1081 N Jamestown Rd Apt F, Decatur 30033-3682

ILLINOIS

- ¹ Allegretti, Carol, 24500 N Kelsey Rd, Barrington 60010-1561
- ¹ Boyd, Carol, 303 S Stewart St, Geneseo 61254-1425
- ^x Bruns, Joseph, 1 220 Stratford Ln, Hanover Park 601 03-2667
- ^x Goodsell, Mrs Barbara, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview 60025-4576
- ^s Harms, P, 2133 Crawford Ave, Evanston, IL 60201-1870
- ^s Jarnowski, Frances, 182 Old Sutton Rd, Barrington 60010-9366
- ^x Landgren, Anna Jean, 2450 Iroquois Rd, Wilmette 60091-1368
- ^s Lavine, Alma, 119 N Stewart St, Geneseo 61254-1311
- ^x Palm, Elinor A, 4640 1 82nd Pl, Country Club Hills 60478-5037
- ¹ Roth, Fred S, 1055 N Metter Ave, Columbia 62236-1213
- TM Schroeder, Mrs Mildred, 1020 N Harlem Ave Apt 4F, River Forest 60305-1519
- ¹ Simmons, Morgan, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston 60201-1424

INDIANA

- ^s Mikita, Gary S, 2842 Brown St, Portage 46368-3918
- ¹ Willey, Jean, 851 Kenmare Pkwy, Crown Point 46307-2654

IOWA

- ^{TX} Jones, Jacquetta E, 60714th Ave # 34, Durant 52747-9785
- ¹ Jugenheimer, John, 1105 W 17th St, Davenport 52804-3713
- ^s Mathews, Mrs Leland, 1562 Highway 117 N, RT 2 Box 125, Colfax 50054-7529
- ¹ Pershing, Barbara, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls 50613-9412
- ^x Schafer, Celia, 3830 Woodland Ct, Davenport 52807-1510
- ^x Thompson, Catherine R, PO Box 213, Cedar Falls 50613-0213
- ^x Tyler, Janice K, 1461 Norske Rd, Decorah 52101-7366
- ¹ Watts, Joan M, 620 Ray St, Colo 50056-1031
- ¹ Watts, Wayne, 620 Ray St, Colo 50056-1031

KANSAS

- ¹ Barrett, Helen V, 6700 Farmview St, Wichita 67206-1011
- ¹ Beaver, Frances S, 10715 W 56th Ter, Shawnee 66203-2307
- ¹ Knobbe, Sue K, 15532 Marty St, Overland Park 66223-3028
- ¹ McCurnin, Grace R, 6812 Reeds Rd, Overland Park 66204-1539
- ^m Montgomery, Isla, 216 Ross St, Downs 67437-1822
- ¹ Richards, Pat, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe 66062-3004
- ¹ Russell, Raymond L, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence 66046-4617
- ¹ Weir, Mrs Robert, 490 Terrace Trl E, Lake Quivira 66106-9505
- ¹ Wieditz, Mrs Faye, 1351 Caddy Ln, Wichita 67212-4207

LOUISIANA

- ^x Armstrong, Al, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
- ^x Armstrong, Genelle, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
- ¹ Barlow, Sallie, 3041 8 Fairway View Dr, Denham Springs 70726-7704
- ^x Bengé, Dorothy L, 5900 Wheeler Dr, Metairie 70003-1037
- ^x Dazet, Celia, PO Box 625, Empire 70050-0625
- ¹ Dyson, Martha, 502 1 Bayou Black Dr, Gibson 70356-3318
- ^s Godeny, Elmer K, 7004 Government St, Baton Rouge 70806-6237
- ^x Lindsly, L G, 7734 Wimbledon Ave, Baton Rouge 70810-1770
- ^x McFarland, Mary T, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge 70806-1844
- TM Ozio, L T, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
- ^x Ozio, Mrs Yvonne, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
- ^x Peres, Leora T, 220 S Polk St, Rayne 70578-6437
- ^x Pippin, Jane D, 9996 Highway 165 S, Forest Hill 71430-9660
- ¹ Ramirez, Mr George, 1620 Willow Bend Dr, Morgan City 70380-1552

MARYLAND

- ¹ Barbi, Kenneth W, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
- ¹ Barbi, Susan J F, 1 809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401 -5873
- ^{TX} Burns, Marie, 8624 Delege Rd, Baltimore 21237-2107
- ¹ Gordon, R Gary, 120 Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville 20833-2307
- ^x Haag, Janet, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore 21212-2020

- ¹ Huffman, Shirley, 11988 Simpson Rd, Clarksville 21029-1726
- ^x Lages, Betty Lou, 3609 Fort Hill Dr, Ellicott City 21043
- ^m Sauter, Ms Beatrice, 1 Silktree Ct, Catonsville 21228-5867
- ¹ Toolan, Sharon, 3903 Nemo Rd, Randallstown 21133-4007
- ¹ Wood, Beryl J, 1134 Hudson Rd, Cambridge 21613-3234

MASSACHUSETTS

- ^x Balonis, Marcia, 25 Golden Dr, Easthampton 01027-2565
- ¹ Clark Jr, Robert A, 48 Newhall St, Malden 02148-7055
- TM Courage, Alice M, 1830 Main St Apt 39, Tewksbury 01876-4715
- ¹ Dow, Charles M, 12 Mount Vernon St Apt 38, Melrose 02176-5267
- ¹ Eaton, Peggy, 12 Matchett St, Brighton 02135-1505

MINNESOTA

- ^x Bann, Mrs Ruth, 680 Marigold Ter NE, Fridley 55432-5641
- ^s Donaho, Jane, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul 55108-1449
- ^s Frilseth, Ellen S, 719 Emerald Rdg, Roseville 55113-6736
- ¹ Graf, Gail, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington 55420-3721
- ¹ Graf, James S, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington 55420-3721
- ^x Harrington, Dolores, 1620 Gardena Ave NE, Fridley 55432-5818
- TM Johnson, Retha N, 5105 W 62nd St, Edina 55436-2619
- TM Johnson, Sharon E, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines 55014-1350
- ^s Kiley, Kimberly, 8601 Edinbrook Xing Apt 228, Brooklyn Park, 55443-4009
- ^x Lahti, Kathy, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale 55302-3614
- ¹ Officer, Sandy, 8920 Southwood Dr, Bloomington 55437-1744
- ^x Paron, Mrs Marino, 7536 County Road 5 NE, North Branch 55056-6335
- ^s Podany, Gail, 5256 Beachside Dr, Minnetonka 55343-4322
- ^x Trapp, Mrs Monroe, 1 Indian Hills Dr, Circle Pines 55014-4503
- ^s Werness, Barbara, 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids 55448-7034
- ¹ Zondlo, Mrs Charles, 3326 Lincoln St NE, Minneapolis 55418-1454

MISSISSIPPI

- ^s Brasfield, Brenda M, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch 38654-9360
- ^{ME} Wicht, Miss Jane, 203 Broad St, Hattiesburg 39401-3604

MISSOURI

- ¹ Amelung, Nancy, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Saint Louis 63119-1304
- ¹ Anderson, Dorothy, 1016 Maplewood Dr, Columbia 65203-1856
- ¹ Blanton, Helen, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles 63304-7945
- ^x Britton, James L, 3906 SW Harbor Dr, Lees Summit 64082-4633
- ^s Bruning, Allison, 2503 Lilac Dr, Columbia 65202-1227
- ^s Burns, Sandra K, 6801 E Bannister Rd, Kansas City, 64134-1108
- ¹ Burr, Carolyn E, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester 63021-7004
- ¹ Campbell, Ethel M, 5350 E Farm Road 168, Rogersville 65742-8424
- ^x Carson, Doris F, 1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin 64804-0649
- ^x Donnell, Ramona, PO Box 959, Carl Junction 64834-0959
- ^x Dublinski, Mrs Susan, 328 Morgan Trl, Saint Peters 63376-3779
- ¹ Dunlap, Gary N, 41 89 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2708
- ^s Dunlap, Pat, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2708
- ¹ Eaklor, Lavera 1, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis 63139-1903
- ¹ Evensen, Mrs Marilyn, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin 63011-2748
- ^x Golubski, Linda, 1416 NW A St, Blue Springs 64015-3605
- ¹ Hamilton, Mrs Virginia, 7 Carole Ln, Saint Louis 63131-2539
- ^m Hamtil, Marion A., 27 Brook Ln, Saint Charles 63304-8118

- ^x Hapner, Mrs Susan, 35 Ridge Point Dr, Chesterfield 63017-2718
- ^x Hart, Patricia M, 3350 Blue Ridge Blvd, Independence 64052-1068
- ^m Hill, Sue 1, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence 64055-5801
- ¹ Loveland, Marsha D, 11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9506
- ^m Meister, Mrs Carl, 13457 Tesson Ferry Rd, Saint Louis 63128-4010
- ^x Miller, Ardath L, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 6301 13948
- ¹ Payne, Peggy R, 108 S Elizabeth St, Hallsville 65255-9429
- ^x Proctor, Mrs. Harold A, 10000 Womall Rd Apt 3301, Kansas City 64114-4368
- ^x Russom, Fran, 7022 Ethel Ave, Saint Louis 63117-1919
- ¹ Schaaf, Marian R, 23 1 04 E Adams Rd, Independence 64058-2400
- ^x Taylor, Tricia A, 9300 E 90th Pl, Kansas City 641 38-4775
- ^x Wells, Esther Edwards, 948 Fair Oaks Ct, Liberty 64068-9464
- ^m Wilson, Mrs Roma, 4249 Michigan Ave Apt 1011, Saint Louis 63111-1137
- ¹ Wolverton, Wilma J, 8505 S Karr Rd, Grain Valley 64029-9122

NEBRASKA

- ^s Ahlman, Shannon, 310 N Walnut St, Grand Island 68801-5960
- ^s Larson, Karen, 5605 N 78th Ave, Omaha 68134-2220
- ^x Stork, Joyce, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont 68025-2478
- ¹ Stork, Kent, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont 68025-2478

NEVADA

- ¹ Mark, Carol J, 1823 Fairlie Ct, Sparks 89434-8883
- ¹ Schmidt, Betty L, 318 Fodrin Way, Sparks 89431-5171
- ¹ Selleck, Jann, 12890 Fellowship Way, Reno 89511-8658

NEW JERSEY

- ¹ Amao, Susan E, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington 08016-2515
- ¹ Borey, Mrs. Paul E, 251 Vista View Dr, Mahwah 7430
- ¹ Brown, Laurel W, 1 39 Evergreen Dr, Willingboro 08046-2446
- ^m Buschke, Mrs. Edward W., 11 Drumlin Dr, Morris Plains 07950-2718
- ^s Church, Barbara, 103 Stratford Rd, Dumont 07628-1142
- ¹ Cichocki, Karyn, 79 Beaver Run Rd, Lafayette 07848-3112
- ^s De Simon, Joseph, 749 Park Ave, Oradell 07649-2009
- ¹ Fischer, Jill G, 59 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights 07922-1812
- ¹ Friedman, Mrs Florence, 181 Elm St, Tenafly 07670-3032
- ¹ Hill, Mr Fred, 88 Horseshoe Ln S, Columbus 08022-1056
- ^x Jasaitis, Dale K, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown 08505-2912
- ¹ Johnson, Mrs Becky, 345 Roosevelt Ln, Kenilworth 07033-1524
- ¹ Kurzynski, Robert, 270 Washington Ave, Clifton 07011-3122
- ^s Lang, Colleen, 216 Edgemere Dr, Toms River 08755-1160
- ¹ Lueschen, Beverly J, 30 Farm Rd Apt 3, Somerville 08876-4462
- ¹ Lueschen, Bill, 30 Famm Rd Apt 3, Somerville 08876-4462
- ¹ Murasko, Mrs J, 95 Connolly Dr, Milltown 08850-2103
- ^m Riemer, Janet, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington 08534-4007
- ¹ Senna, Frank, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland 07436-3501
- ¹ Skalski, Sandra, 516 MacIntosh Dr, Mullica Hill 08062-9474
- ^x Thurman, Gary, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
- ^x Thurman, Mrs Gary, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
- ¹ Winfield, Cecelia, 972A Village Dr E, North Brunswick 08902-2821

NEW MEXICO

- ¹ Bowden, Jo Ellen, 407 La Veta Dr NE, Albuquerque 87108-1401
- ¹ Garrison, Agatha, HC I Box 35-A, Estancia 87016
- ^s Holmes, Ruth, 93 Moraga St, Belen 87002-6019
- ¹ Iskra, Calista, 4700 Sherwood St NE, Albuquerque 87109-2820
- ^s Moreno, Mary Ann, 4420 Avenida del Sol NE, Albuquerque 87110-6179

- ¹ Schmierer, Margaret, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque 87120-1113
- ¹ Tallant, Joy, 4305 Cobblestone Pl NE, Albuquerque 87109-2909
- ⁵ Wells, Deborah, 460 1 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472
- ¹ Wells, Garald, 4601 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472

NEW YORK

- ¹ Banchik, Lillian H, PO Box 222125, GreatNeck 11022-2125
- ⁵ Barthel, Frank, 102 Melvin Dr, Syracuse 13212-4219
- ⁵ Best, Catherine F, PO Box 242, 6970 Convent St, Croghan 13327-0242
- ^M Bradford, Edward, 8525 86th St, Woodhaven 11421-1203
- ¹ Burdick, Doug, 55 Rosemount St, Rochester 14620-4205
- ¹ Burrell, Carol Ann, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
- ¹ Burrell, Stephen, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
- ¹ Califano, Margaret A, 72 Glendale Rd, Latham 12110-4229
- ^M Champion, Ethel W., 8848 Van Hosen Rd, Clay 13041-9604
- ⁵ Dimon, Colin, 833 E Circle Dr, Vestal 13850-3138
- ⁵ Ellison, Barbara Whiting, 264 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square 13036-3416
- ⁵ Evans, Diane Lombardo, 52 Kristin Dr, Rochester 14624-1048
- ¹ Fraley, Susan J, 8 Vine St, Albany 12203-2918
- ^X Ghossn, Rose, 8712 Jamaica Ave, Woodhaven 11421-2036
- ^X Gugliada, Mrs Frank, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island 10306-1232
- ¹ Gutberlet, M J., 103 Hallbar Rd, Rochester 14626-1108
- ¹ Hart, Annabelle, 118 S Crescent Dr, Rome 13440-4576
- ⁵ Heinrich, Marilyn, 7 Ellsworth Pl, East Northport 11731-5723
- ⁵ Hershkowitz, Annette N, 159 Parkway Dr N, Commack 11725-4908
- ^X Klein, Carolyn, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107
- ⁵ Kot, Monica L, 8184 Eileen Ave, Cicero 13039-9564
- ^X Kroll, Paul F, 4325 Two Rod Rd, Harmony Hill Farm, East Aurora 14052-9693
- ⁵ Leary, Michael, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport 14450-2102
- ⁵ Leary, Sharon, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport 14450-2102
- ¹ Lohan, Diane, 499 Keith Ln, West Islip 11795-3433
- ¹ Macaluso, Rosemary, 40162 47th St, Little Neck 11363-1637
- ¹ McDonald, Paula, 250 W 85th St Apt 8A, New York 10024-3217
- ¹ Montgomery, Mrs Eileen, 248 Marilyn St, East Islip 11730-3306
- ^M Oswald, Mrs Frederick, 5 Euston Rd, Garden City 11530-4107
- ⁵ Palagonia, Joseph, 84 164th Ave # 08, Howard Beach 11414-3601
- ¹ Perras, Edward M, 90 Springhollow Dr, Cohoes 12047-1233
- ⁵ Perrott, Barbara D, 5 Downing Ave, Newburgh 12550-1923
- ¹ Purtell, Sherry, 47 Robin Ln, Rensselaer 12144-9635
- ¹ Red Elk, Priscilla C, 205 Point Pleasant Rd, Rochester 14622-3330
- ⁵ Robinson, Kuo-Shih Ma, PO Box 9, Naples 14512-0009
- ⁵ Robinson, Ralph, PO Box 9, Naples 14512-0009
- TM Rotando, Mrs Kathryn, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
- TM Rutmayer, Mrs Kenneth, 109 Curtis Dr, Sound Beach 11789-2254
- ¹ Schirtzer, Claire J, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach 11561-1925
- ⁵ Thompson, Peter, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse 13224-1827
- ¹ Vogt, Dorothy, 1 80 Waco St, Lindenhurst 11757-5338
- ¹ Wagman, Fayanne B, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford 14534-3104
- ¹ Wagman, Irwin, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford 14534-3104
- ^X Weber, Mrs Jane, 50 Belknap Dr, Northport 11768-3402
- ¹ Wildman Jr, James A, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse 13205-3011
- ¹ Yager, Robin, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale 13308-1912
- ¹ Yager, William, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale 13308-1912

NORTH CAROLINA

- ¹ Abplanalp, Linda, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington 27215-4660
- ¹ Bunn, Kemmit M, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446

- ^X Bunn, Lorena, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446
- ¹ McElwain, Mrs Lauretta, 761 Hinton Creek Rd, Ellenboro 28040-7742

OHIO

- ^X Bartley, Betty L, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield 45504-3513
- ⁵ Beaty, Janice, 900 Kenwyn Ct, Columbus 43220-4160
- ^X Black, Mrs George, 3548 Alabama Ave SW, Dalton 44618-9515
- ¹ Boos, Donna M, 3651 US Highway 322, Williamsfield 44093-8730
- ^X Borton, Mrs Lewis, 4864 US Route 68 N, Yellow Springs 45387-9748
- ¹ Bradney, Martha, 1104 Anderson St, Piqua 45356-4348
- ^M Garner, M E, 1010 Edgewood St SE, North Canton 44720-3230
- ^X Grinstead, Evelyn G., 1864 Berkshire Rd, Columbus 43221-3817
- ¹ Hancock, Pat, PO Box 8085, West Chester 45069-8085
- ¹ Harris, Betty, 438 E Clearview Ave, Worthington 43085-3124
- ¹ Holtzman, Sharon, 6971 Olentangy Ln, Cincinnati 45244-3146
- ¹ Jones, Shirley, 3769 W State Route 185, Piqua 45356-9324
- ^X Lott, Eileen, 523 Sturgeon Dr, Akron 443 194311
- ^X Lusk, Elmer C, 1173 Oakland Ave, Columbus 43212-3316
- ¹ Morabito, Gertrude, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville 44077-2117
- ^X Neumann, Linda A, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton 44133-2904
- TM Owens, Mrs Linda, 1762 Stemwood Dr, Columbus 43228-9716
- ¹ Palm, Doris T, 1780 Tea Rose Dr, Fairborn 45324-9628
- TM Savage, Emilie B, 39 Mead Dr, Chillicothe 45601-3737
- ¹ Stotler, Mrs Terena, 1027 State Route 589, Sidney 45365-8783

OKLAHOMA

- ^X Cotten, Jeanne M, 4402 E 105th Pl, Tulsa 74137-6223
- TM Howlett, Rose, 4916 E 38th Pl, Tulsa 74135-5529
- ^X McCawley, Edna R., 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa 74112-6929
- ^X Sutton, Mrs Pat, 1707 S 77th East Ave, Tulsa 74112-7817

OREGON

- ⁵ Duvendack, Christy, 17389 Banyon Ln, Lake Oswego 97034-6901
- ⁵ Miller, Valerie, 4108 SE Risley Ave, Portland 97267-2938
- ⁵ Powers, Kathleen, 3241 W Hills Rd, Philomath 97370-9553
- ¹ Ross, Elise M, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis 97333-2928

PENNSYLVANIA

- ¹ Allen, Lee, 15 Hollyhock Ln, Levittown 19055-1319
- ¹ Allen, Marion, 15 Hollyhock Ln, Levittown 19055-1319
- ⁵ Branson, Betsy, 712 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown 19031-1302
- ¹ Branson, Enid, 6 45 Meadowbrook Ave, Ambler 19002-4919
- ^X Callahan, Mrs Betty, 6 Pennsylvania Ave, Fairless Hills 19030-1318
- ¹ Cooper, Frances M, 492 Pinecrest Rd, Springfield 19064-3312
- ⁵ Criswell, Mrs Judi, 1105 Darby Rd, Havertown 19083-3806
- ¹ Eckard, Kurt H, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia 19128-3632
- ^X Gershon, Marianne, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield 19440-3269
- ¹ Hanna, Susan, 472 Store Rd, Harleysville 19438-2502
- ¹ Jones, Mrs. Richard I, 909 Louise Ln, West Chester 19382-7919
- ⁵ Lubinski, Robert, 438 Ridge Rd, New Brighton 15066-4233
- ⁵ Lyons, Kazuko, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown 19057-2229
- TM Lyons, William R, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown 19057-2229
- ¹ Reed, Craig R, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
- ¹ Reed, Mrs Joan, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
- ¹ Roth, Mrs Elizabeth, 105 Carleton Rd, Wallingford 19086-6116
- ^X Shannon, Mrs Laura, 8845 Norwood Ave, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia 19118-2710
- ¹ Smith, Judith, 7808 Conwell Rd, Laverock 19038-7205
- TM Tinari, Mrs Anne, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley 19006-6007
- ¹ Wezel, Penelope, RR 2 Box 225J, Ulster 18850-9649

RHODE ISLAND

- * Gimblet, Susan, 10 Kenyon Rd, Tiverton, 02878-1618
- * Warren, Ruth, 99 Hancock St Apt 254, Tiverton 02878-2360

SOUTH CAROLINA

- * Mims, Sandra P, 34 Waterway Island Dr, Isle of Palms 29451-2728
- * Short, Mrs Vere, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville 29485-8608

TENNESSEE

- † Adamson, Peggy, 1613 Hampton Ave, Nashville 37207-4309
- * Ellis, Judy, 61 10 Barrentine Dr, Bartlett 38134-5934
- ™ Pair, Mrs Iona, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis 38133-2802
- * Shirley, Mrs Ann, 7150 Cedar Rd, Bartlett 38135-1904
- * Stauffer, Helen, 2973 Falkirk Rd, Memphis 38128-2919
- † Steele, Katherine, 1736 Cornelia Ln, Memphis 38117-7004
- * Willets, Floretta A, 811 Sunset Dr, Kingston 37763-2131
- * Willets, Nancy D, 811 Sunset Dr, Kingston 37763-2131

TEXAS

- * Acree, Yvonne, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas 75220-1631
- † Altenburg, Suzanne Patricia, 12633 Memorial Dr Apt 82, Houston 77024-4843
- * Baumgardner, Cathy, 6611 Cloverbend St, San Antonio 78238-1308
- † Becerra Jr, Hector, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio 78213-1935
- † Bullard, Marjorie, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1212, Corpus Christi 78414-2639
- † Carpenter, Janice, 1321 Whitehall Dr, Plano 75023-6700
- † Carter, Judith, 19506 Mills Meadow Ln, Houston 77094-3412
- * Catstiglione, Janet M, 313 Plantation Oak Ave, Lake Dallas 75065-2206
- * Chilcutt, Myrtle, 1 100 Cleckler Ave, Fort Worth 76111-4354
- † Clark, Anita D, 309 Lakeway Dr, Benbrook 76126-3104
- * Click, Elaine, 10251 Helmsdale St, Houston 77043-1810
- * Corondan, Mary, 7205 Dillon Ct, Plano 75024-3853
- † Crawford, Mrs M K, 735 Oban Dr, San Antonio 78216-6145
- * Curry, Eunice, 617 Mimosa Dr, Denton 76201-0858
- * Davidson, Janice, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak 75154-7401
- † Davidson, Ronald, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak 75154-7401
- * Davis, Grace, 3418 Urban Dr, Garland 75041-4628
- * Dixon, Mrs Billie, 508 Christi Ln, Coppell 75019-4055
- † Dubose, Gloria, PO Box 724, Georgetown 78627-0724
- * Early, Mrs Robert D, 5916 Walla Ave, Fort Worth 76133-2716
- † Fergon, Peggy, 7517 Overhill Rd, Fort Worth 76116-9017
- * Forcht, Mrs. Brennan A, 833 McKinney St, Arlington 76012-4617
- † Fort, Mural, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills 76180-8760
- ™ Foster, Bill, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite 75150-2121
- * Foster, Paula, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite 75150-2121
- † Froboese, Ken, 32005 Ih 10 W, Boerne 78006-9240
- † Fuster, Blanca, 1225 Americana Ln Apt 1205, Mesquite 75150-4671
- * Garlick, Maxine S, 2750 Arrowhead Dr, Copperas Cove 76522-7201
- * Gibbs, Dolores, 608 Larue Dr, San Marcos 78666-2410
- * Goeke, Ruth, 4851 Pieper Rd, Brenham 77833-7072
- * Goins, Gerri, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston 77031-2220
- ™ Golla, Billie, 955 Mission Hills Dr, New Braunfels 78130-6676
- * Goss, Nancy, 1710 Deerfield Dr, Austin 78741-3705
- † Hall, Marilyn P, 5905 Imogene St, Houston 77074-7729
- ™ Hall, Meredith M, 922 E 14th St, Houston 77009-5004
- * Hamey, Irene, 8323 Chivalry St, San Antonio 78250-2408
- * Hudnall, Mrs Gladys, 6909 Bumet Ln, Austin 78757-2430
- * Hummer, Alma, 10606 Sunflower Ln, San Antonio 78213-1623
- † Jensen, Judith Ann, 3310 Hillpark Ln, Carrollton 75007-2734
- † Johnson, Dea V., 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio 78216-3711
- † Johnson, Mr. Wm H, 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio 78216-3711

- † Kimbro, Joyce, 4107 Wyldwood Rd, Austin 78739-3010
- † Leifeste, Connie L, 12000 Riverview Dr, Woodway 76712-7608
- * Lewis, Mrs Velma, 6309 Firth Rd, Fort Worth 76116-2042
- * Liggett, Laura, 17411 Rustington Dr, Spring 77379-5009
- * Linson, Virginia, 326 Drexel Dr, Grapevine 76051-5101
- † Lopez, Arturo, 1000 Amur St, Mesquite 75150-4211
- † McElhannon, Bonnie, 305 Audra Cir, Rhame 76078-3403
- † McEwen, Onalee H, 18103 Barbuda Ln, Houston 77058-3421
- † McGraw, Donna, 8207 Colonial Oaks Ln, Spring 77379-3908
- * Moore, Penny, 1550 County Road 139, Hutto 78634-5420
- * Nabers, John P, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston 77062-5008
- † Nicholas, Anne M, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
- ™ Padgett, Mrs T W, 2005 Mill Creek Dr, Arlington 76010-5618
- † Nicholas, Dr. Richard A, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
- * Peters, Bobbie, 909 Cardinal Ln, Paige 78659-9741
- * Pittman, Hortense, 7416 County Road 129, Celina 75009-4704
- * Pittman, Jessie R., 7416 County Road 129, Celina 75009-4704
- * Pursley, Mrs Joseph, 10606 Man O War Ave, Austin 78719-9606
- ™ Ramser, Mrs Charles, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls 76308-1908
- * Range, Terri, 2350 Mockingbird Ln, Garland 75042-8329
- † Reddell, Janey E, 2408 Cedar Ln, Schertz 78154-2741
- † Reuss, Phyllis, 3924 Bordeaux Cir, Flower Mound 75028-7047
- * Rexilius, Jane, 5634 Yarwell Dr, Houston 77096-3922
- * Rhodes, Mrs. M W, PO Box 57, Manchaca 78652-0057
- † Robinson, Shirley, 3305 Cedarcrest Dr, Pasadena 77503-2121
- † Rogers, Jo Anne, PO Box 653, Copperas Cove 76522-0653
- † Sanders, Sandy, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
- † Sanders, Shirley, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
- * Saunders, Mary Lou, 2214 Saharah Dr, Garland 75044-7165
- † Schrimsher, Jo Anne, 2205 College Dr, Victoria 77901-4474
- † Smith, Mary A, 5302 Riviera Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3010
- † Spachek, Steven, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio 78221-3852
- * Stallings, Mary, 3709 Glenmont Dr, Fort Worth 76133-2953
- * Stenger, Joyce A, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston 77062-5008
- † Storey, Mrs. Susan, 110 Rogers Ridge St, San Marcos 78666-4715
- * Sugg, William, 805 Rex Ln, Garland 75040-5737
- † Taggart, Mrs. Byron E, 326 Barbara Dr, San Antonio 78216-7405
- † Tracy, Betty, 6103 Royal Pt, San Antonio 78239-1540
- * Turner, Mrs Byron, PO Box 29727, Dallas 75229-0727
- * Walbrick, Mary, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3029
- * Wheeler, Ruth, PO Box 225829, Dallas 75222-5829
- * Wright, Mrs Floyd, 2106 Woodland Park Dr, Houston 77077-6428
- ™ Young, Mrs Frances, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr, Austin 78731-4162

UTAH

- * Jones, Mrs John H, 1786 Millcreek Way, Salt Lake City 84106-3234
- * Terry, Rulon, 748 E Antelope Dr, Layton 84041-8607

VIRGINIA

- * Akers, Cathy S, 11912 Smoketree Blvd, Fredericksburg 22407-8538
- ™ Boland, Mary A, 6415 Wilcox Ct, Alexandria 22310-3329
- * Dudley, Roseanne C, 409 Dune St, Norfolk 23503-5330
- * Gangerelli, Mary Ann, 2710 Viking Dr, Hemdon 20171-2400
- † Grundy, Alice D, 3018 Hungary Spring Rd, Richmond 23228-2420
- † Hedgepeth, Kathryn A, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond 23230-5930
- † Hoffmann, Susan B, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach 23452-3941
- ™ Jones, Laurene, 3430 Luttrell Rd, Annandale 22003-1269
- † Knight, P, 1796 Stonehaven Ln, Virginia Beach 23464-7051
- † Long, Sharon A, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr, Richmond 23233-4352
- * Nuyianes, Opal L, 12808 Thompson Rd, Fairfax 22033-1604
- † Schmidt, William C, 500 Danray Dr, Richmond 23227-1927
- ™ Skelton, Elinor, 3910 Larchwood Rd, Falls Church 22041-1108

- ¹ Van, Carol, 300 Brittain Ln, Hampton 23669-1052
- TM Wilson, John E, 10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas 20111-4222

WISCONSIN

- ¹ Barry, Nancy, 2533 Memorial Dr, Green Bay 54303-6231
- ¹ Degner, Kevin W, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh 54901-6828
- ¹ Eberle, Mildred, N93W17229 Devonwood Rd, Menomonee Falls 53051-1405
- ¹ Fossum, Mrs Dorothy, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee 53222-3522

- ⁵ Fox, Mrs Robert, 1235 N Westfield St, Oshkosh 54901-3218
- ⁵ Garvens, Arlene, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy 53929-8834
- ¹ Heider, Catherine, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro 54963-9767
- ¹ Judd, Janice, W6090 County Road P, Monroe 53566-9716
- ⁵ Lewis, Mable, W8934 Davis Rd, Browntown 53522-9741
- TM Mengsol, Ruth E, 5616 W Cairdel Ln, Mequon 53092-1190
- TM Merrell, Mrs Irene, W283 Hillendale Dr, Oconomowoc 53066-5530
- ¹ Streit, Mrs Shirley, N1795 County Rd S, Juda 53550-9768
- ⁵ West, Eric, 130 Thomson Ln, Oregon 53575-1664

1998 AVSA Affiliated Clubs

(Editors Note: This is the Affiliate list as reported by the AVSA office as of July 1, 1998. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

- AV ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, INC.**, Mrs Barbara Pittaway - Secretary, 8 Wangalla Rd, Lane Cove 2066
AV-GESNERIAD SOCIETY OF NSW, Reg Townsend - President, 35 Craigio Ave, Padstow 2211
AVGS OF CANBERRA, INC C/O GRIFFIN CENTRE, Bunda St, Canberra City ACT, 2601
AVS OF QUEENSLAND, Derek Arnold, 7 Barrine Ct, Petrie 4502
AVS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, Mrs E Warwick - President, 15 Kinnear Crescent, Rostrevor 5073
AVS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Mrs Nal Goulding - President, PO Box 3, South Perth 6951
CI-CENTRAL COAST AVC, Mrs J White - President, 379 Main Rd, Noraville 2263
EARLY MORN AV GROUP, The Librarian, PO Box 186, Mt Waverly 3149
HUNTER VALLEY AVS, Terry Kingdon - President, 55 Butler Ave, Cooranbong 2265
WOLLONGONG AV GROUP, Joan Kerr - President, 1 Pringle Rd, Corrimall 2518

BAHAMAS

- BAHAMAS AVS**, Mrs Sybil Strachan - President, PO Box GT 2048 Nassau

BERMUDA

- Bermuda AVS**, Mrs Hattieann Gilbert - President, 16 Valley Ln, Sandys MA05

CANADA ALBERTA

- AVS OF CALGARY**, Walter Salamanowicz - President, C/O 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6
EDMONTON AVS, Keith Hussen - AV Representative, #1401 8315 105th St, Edmonton T6E 4H4
GAS CITY AVS, Brenda Naroznick - President, 491 12th St SE, Medicine Hat T1A 1V7
STAMPEDE CITY AVS, Ingrid Nelson - President, 224 Douglas Woods Pt SE, Calgary T2Z 2A7
THE AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, Bertha Lawrence - President, 4206 33 St, Red Deer T4N 0N2

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- THE VANCOUVER AVC**, Barbara Dawson - President, 303 2250 Se Marine Dr, Vancouver V5P 2S2

MANITOBA

- WINNIPEG AVS**, Bonnie Batchelor - President, 320 Lake Ridge Rd., Winnipeg R2Y 1K4

NEW BRUNSWICK

- FUNDY VIOLET CLUB**, Ms Susan Brooks - President, 260 Douglas Avenue, Saint John E2K 1E6
MONCTONIAN AVS, Francine Cain, 45 Wright Dr., Moneton E1E 2H3
ROYAL SAINT PAULIA CLUB, Mrs Susan MacNichol - President, 50 Meadow Cres, Sussex Corner E4E 2Y7

NOVA SCOTIA

- ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AVS**, Mrs Jean L Stanford - President, Box 683 68 Connaught Ave, Middleton, B0S

- FIRST HALIFAX AVS**, Dorothy Owens - President, 25 Medford St, Dartmouth B2Y 3C2

ONTARIO

- AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL ONTARIO**, Doris Brownlie - President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4
HERITAGE AVS, Mrs Brian Krick - President, 406 Tapleytown Rd, Stoney Creek L8J 3K6
LAKESHORE AVS, Doris Brownlie - President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga L5A 2B4
LONDON AVS, Shirley Bellows - President, RR1 Arva, N0M 1C0
OAKVILLE AVS, Mrs Josephina Fitzwilliam - President, 2120 Parkway Dr, Burlington L7P 1S4
OTTAWA AVS, President Richard Harriman, 2395 Ogilvie Rd., Gloucester K1J 7N4
TORONTO AVS, Jean Hamilton - President, 130 Wishing Well Dr, Agincourt M1T 1J7
TORONTO GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Daphne Yaremko - President, 1-211 Pine Valley Dr, London N6J 4W5

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- CHARLOTTETOWN AVS**, Mrs Hilda Lewis, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown C1A 3Y9

QUEBEC

- AVS OF GREATER MONTREAL**, Nancy Johnston - President, 127 Spartan Crescent, Pointe Claire H9R 3H4
CLUB DES VIOLETTES AFRICAINES, Pierrette Marquis - President, 80 Cairns Branby, Granby J2G 6R2
CLUB VIOLETTES LONGUEUIL, Rene Martin - President, Cp 21126 Succ Jacques Cartier, 1401 Chemin Chambly, Longueuil J4J 5J4
LES VIOLETTES SAGUENEENNES, Patricia Duchesne - President, 3707 Panet, Jonquiere G7X 9J6
SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE, Nicole Charbonneau - President, 4101 Sherbrooke Rue Est, Montreal H1X 2B2

SASKATCHEWAN

- CAREFREE GESNERIAD SOCIETY**, Florence Duesterbeck, 2235 Montreal St., Regina S4P 1J7
NUTANA VIOLET CLUB, Alma Jones - President, 1638 E Heights, Saskatoon S7J 3B6

ENGLAND

- SAINTPAULIA & HOUSEPLANT SOCIETY**, Mrs. F B F Dunningham M B E - Treasurer, 33 Church Rd Newbury Prk, Ilford IG2 7ET

HONG KONG

- AVS OF HONG KONG LTD**, Lau Hin Cheung - President, PO Box 99075 (T.S.T.), Tsim Sha Tsui Kowloon

JAPAN

- JAPAN INTERNATIONAL SAINTPAULIA**, Mrs Toshi Kawakami - President, B-604 Tsutsujigaoka-haim, 2-13-3 Shibasaki Chofu-shi, Tokyo 182

MEXICO

- PRIMER CLUB DE VIOLETAS**, Alejandrina B De Guererro - President, PO Box 1688, Monterrey N L Cp

PERU

- SOCIEDAD PERUANA DE VIOLETAS**, PO Box 1413, Lima 18

SOUTH AFRICA

- CAPE AVS**, Alex Duncan - President, 14 Marion Ave Southfield, Cape Town 7800

KZN AVS, Valerie Airey - President, 1104 the Towers Bamboo Ln, Pinetown 3610

TRANSVAAL AVS, Joan Halford - President, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria 0049

USAMBARA VIOLET ASA, Rosie Katzeff - President, 168 A Voortrekker Rd, Goodwood 7460

TAIWAN

TAIWAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Fu Chen Tung - President, 4 Lane 61 Kuo Shan 3rd Rd, Kao-Hsiung 804 W Australia

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

ALABAMA AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Sherry Buie - President, 1210 Scenic View Dr, Dothan 36303-1957

CAPITAL CITY AVS OF MONTGOMERY, Linda Boyd - President, 239 Nottingham Rd, Montgomery 36109-3723

COVINGTON AVS, Evelyn Cope - President, RR 2 Box 100, Andalusia 36420-9618

EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, Jane Sherer - President, 5901 Snowville Brent Rd, Dora 35062-2421

HUNTSVILLE AVS, Mrs Doyle Haynes - President, 7900 Regent Cir SW Apt 1, Huntsville

MONTGOMERY AVS, Marty Daves - President, 2051 County Road 59, Prattville 36067-8032

ALASKA

AURORA BOREALIS AVS, Gay Dell Trumblee - President, PO Box 113127, Anchorage 99511-3127

LAST FRONTIER AVS, Patricia Gordon - President, PO Box 878809, Wasilla 99687-8809

ARIZONA

DESERT SUN AVS, Barbara Vander Leest PhD - President, PO Box 733, Carefree 85377-0733

ROADRUNNER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Rosemary Lort - President, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale 85254-1707

TUCSON AVC, Lila Klepper - President, 5561 E. Miles Circle, Tucson 85712

ARKANSAS

BELLA VISTA AVS, Peggy Walsh - President, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers 72756-9245

GREEN THUMB AVC, Charlotte Jenkins - President, 2116 Dee Ave, Springdale 72762-4039

NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, Danny Tidwell - President, PO Box 326, Mc Rae 72102-0326

CALIFORNIA

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, Al Cornibe - President, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Pauline Cook - President, PO Box 147, Loma Linda 92354-0147

AV JUDGES COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Harriette Poss - President, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo 94403-4311

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, Anne Jantzen - President, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell 95008-2759

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, Nancy Brooks - President, 1238 Peralta Dr, San Jose 95120-5302

AVS OF YUCCA VALLEY, Betty Bosserman - President, PO Box 633, Joshua Tree 92252-0633

AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CA, Jacquie Eisenhut - President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011

BAKERSFIELD AVS, Gloria Aminian - President, 7405 Eliso Ct, Bakersfield 93309-2306

BELLFLOWER AVS, Sharon Coudyser - President, 5761 Eberle St, Lakewood 90713-1838

BURBANK AVS, Susan Eyraud - President, 10729 Sharon Ave, Shadow Hills 91040-1731

CAPITOL CITY AVS, Cindi Nofziger, 256 Cole Ct., Woodland 95695

CARLSBAD AVS, Lynn Sweeney - President, PO Box 7025, Rancho Santa Fe 92067-7025

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, L Mae Mendes - President, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park 95682-9079

DIABLO VALLEY AVS, Vivien Ragan, 2206 Beach St., Concord 94519-2506

FANCY BLOOMERS, Sherry Olson - President, 799 Park Glen Dr, Windsor 95492-8923

FOOTHILL AVS, Cynthia Groth - President, 551 E Duell, Azusa 91702

GRANADA HILLS AVS, Peggy McDivitt - President, 9355 Burnet Ave, North Hills 91345-2304

HUMBOLDT COUNTY AVS, Linda Bettiga - President, PO Box 68, Loleta 95551-0068

LOS ANGELES AVS, Teri Kawai - President, 21105 Cancun, Mission Viejo 92692-4917

MONTROSE AVS, Carroll R. McCarroll - President, 4100 Perlita Ave, Los Angeles 90039-1312

NORTHERN CA COUNCIL OF AVS, Al Cornibe - President, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz 95060-2442

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, Dorothy Kosowsky - President, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier 90601-1016

POMONA VALLEY AVS, Pat Vinciguerra - President, 1350 San Bernardino Rd Spc 169, Upland

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AVS, Bernadine Poulsen - President, 7918 Teesdale Ave, North Hollywood

SAN JOAQUIN AVS, Evelyn E Stein - President, 1314 Lincoln Blvd, Tracy 95376-3210

SIERRA VIOLET LOVERS, Marjorie Lewis - President, 1481 San Lucia Ave, Porterville 93257-1446

SOUTH COAST AVS, Jacque Eisman - President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance 90505-3011

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, Mary Pat Weber - President, 4290 Mistymeadow St, Moorpark 93021-2746

TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, Aneita Richardson - President, 37038 Alder Dr, Mentone 92359-9593

TUSTANA AVS, Denzel M. Probert - President, 2215 Santa Ana Ave, Costa Mesa 92627-1835

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, Florance Naylor - President, 478 Arcade Dr, Ventura 93003-4502

COLORADO

GLOXINIA GESNERIAD GROWERS, Norah Otto - President, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route, Nederland 80466

GOLDEN OLDIES VIOLETS, Katherine Brago - President, 1340 S Eaton St, Lakewood 80232-5834

HAPPINESS IS AVS, Millissa Culver - President, 14534 N 107th St, Longmont 80501-9782

HI COUNTRY JUDGES WORKSHOP, Parker E. Tracy - President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

HI HOPES STUDY CLUB, Mrs Mae Ellen Rogers - President, 5737 E Floyd Ave, Denver 80222-7515

LOVELAND SWEETHEART VIOLETTES, Karen Anderson - President, 14442 Garfield St, Brighton 80601-7738

PIKES PEAK AVS, Shirley Stilley - President, 1709 Sherman St, Colorado Springs 80909-2428

PUEBLO AV CLUB, Mrs Eilene Even - President, 53 Sovereign Cir Apt K, Pueblo 81005-1800

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, Karen Anderson - President, 4771 Cathy Ln, Erie 80516-9039

THE AVS OF DENVER CHAPTER 1, Parker E. Tracy - President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder 80303-5915

THE VIOLETEERS, Linda Thompson - President, 3351 S Field St Apt 168, Denver 80227-4632

ULTRA VIOLET CLUB, Geneva Holmes - President, 8810 Hooker Way, Westminster 80030-3336

CONNECTICUT

- NAUGATONIC AVS**, Mrs Edna Rourke - President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton 06484-6129
NUTMEG STATE AVS, President Vivian Hiltz, 99 Old Stratford Rd., Shelton CT 06484-6129
SILVERMINE AVS, Jean Simons - President, 26 Jennie Ln, Westport 06880-6001
THIMBLE ISLAND AVS, Carolyn Gaffan - President, 450 2nd Ave, West Haven 06516-5135
WINDSOR AVS, Marcia Kilpatrick - President, 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton 06247-1112

DELAWARE

- DELAWARE AVS**, Elaine McCracken - President, 14 S Stuyvesant Dr, Wilmington 19809-3432

FLORIDA

- AV ASSOCIATION OF GARDENERS**, Debbie Chapman - President, 2829 Blind Owl Dr, Orlando 32822-7843
AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, Jo Anne Martinez - President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
AVC OF DAYTONA, Patricia Crowley - President, 3051 Princeton Ave, Daytona Beach 32118-3130
AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, Marcella Wright - President, 1009 Juniper Ave, Niceville 32578-2118
AVS OF JACKSONVILLE, Chris Hall - President, 1236 Catalina Rd E, Jacksonville 32216-3220
AVS OF PENSACOLA, George Starr - President, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola 32507-1637
CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, Patti Schwindt - President, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando 32806-3054
EDISON AVC, Shirley A Davis - President, PO Box 6083, Fort Myers Beach 33932-6083
FANTASY VC, Linda Nelson - President, 4044 Majestic Oak Ln, Brooksville 34602-9112
FIRST LAKELAND AVS, Bill Mingee - President, 827 Sugar Pl, Lakeland 33801-7508
GULF AVC, Blanche Foltz - President, 918 SE 28 Terr Cape Coral 33904
HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, Bobbi Johannsen - President, 14029 Fortunado Rd, Jacksonville 32225-2003
MID-POLK AVS, Audrey Sears - President, 506 Avenue I SE, Winter Haven 33880-3777
MIRACLE STRIP AVS, Farris Simmons - President, 2923 Kirkwell Ave, Panama City 32405-5738
SARASOTA AVS, Deborah Conley - President, 2824 Wilkinson Rd, Sarasota 34231-2800
SUMMER LACE AVS, Gail Chase - President, 1528 Pineview Dr, Tallahassee 32301-4918
SUNCOAST AVS, Sandra Williams - President, 102 9th St E, Tierra Verde 33715-2203
TAMPA AVS, Jo Anne Martinez - President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa 33613-1048
TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY, John Menish - President, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon 33511-4815
THE NITE BLOOMERS AVS, Maxine Cherry - President, 219 Brookview Dr N, Jacksonville 32225-6610
THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, Jennifer Kellum - President, 2418 Tortugas Ln, Fort Lauderdale 33312-4638
TREASURE COAST AVS, Mary Van Der Lugt - President, 1009 S Header Canal Rd, Fort Pierce 34945-4604
UPPER PINELLAS AVS, Mary Ann Fischer - President, 596 Laguna Vista Ct, Largo 33771-2763

GEORGIA

- AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA**, Laura Walker - President, 1081 N Jamestown Rd Apt F, Decatur 30035-3682
GEORGIA AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS CLUB, Joan F Cumpton - President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins 31088-4170

- GEORGIA STATE AV COUNCIL**, Sarah McGaha - President, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming 30040-5207
HIGH HOPES VC OF SOUTH ATLANTA, Ramona Like - President, 6423 Woodstone Ter, Morrow 30260-1734
MASTER CITY AV & GESNERIAD, Sharon Miles - President, 1954 Liberty Church Rd, Hephzibah 30815-4421
TARA AVC, Lorraine Leonard - President, 112 Dunwoody Cir, Griffin 30223-6439

HAWAII

- AVS OF HAWAII**, Gwen Shigekane - President, 46-312 Auna St, Kaneohe 96744-4111

ILLINOIS

- AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS**, Edward Johnson - President, 4901 N Ozanam Ave, Norridge 60656-3203
BARRINGTON BLOOMERS AVS, Nikki Collard - President, 27547 N Forest Garden Rd, Wauconda 60084-2841
EVENING BLOOMERS AVS, Susan Dean - President, 442 N Dean St, Bushnell 61422-1229
FORT MASSAC AVS, Evelyn De Jarnett - President, 900 Catherine St, Metropolis 62960-1743
GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, Barbara Goodsell - President, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview 60025-4576
HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Steve Covolo - President, 13243 S Baltimore Ave, Chicago 60633-1431
ILLINOIS AVS INC, Janice Bruns - President, 1220 Stratford Ln, Hanover Park 60103-2667
LAKE SHORE AVS, Martha Coronado - President, 6019 W Roscoe St, Chicago 60634-4232
MARGARET SCOTT AVS, Lois Crider - President, 2172 County Rd. 1850N, Saint Joseph 61873-9480
METROPOLITAN AVS OF PEORIA, Gary Duchien - President, 117 Lynn St, Washington 61571-2836
NORTHERN IL GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Bob Nicholson - President, 517 Seegers Rd, Des Plaines 60016-3019
TWIN CITIES AVS, Donna Willett - President, 42 Chiswick Cir, Bloomington 61704-7603

INDIANA

- INDIANA STATE AVC**, Chris Poore - President, 9414 Shenandoah Dr, Indianapolis 46229-2062
INDY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Kathie Jeffries - President, 7605 Broadview Dr, Indianapolis 46227-7948

IOWA

- CEDAR VALLEY VIOLET CLUB**, Barbara Pershing - President, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls 50613-9412
EVENING AVC DES MOINES, Ken Wilkinson - President, 638 Jerlynn Ave, Des Moines 50313-3713
QUAD CITIES AVS, LuAnn Christenson - President, 2501 E 28th Ct, Davenport 52803-2101

KANSAS

- LAWRENCE AVC**, Raymond Russell - President, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence 66046-4617
MANHATTAN AVS, Doris Hofman - President, 3507 Musil Dr, Manhattan 66503-2550
MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, Pat Richards - President, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe 66062-3004
THE UNPREDICTABLE'S AVS, Sylvia Prince - President, 9826 W 101st Ter, Overland Park 66212-5430
TOPEKA AVS, Essie Bays - President, RR 1, Maple Hill 66507-9801
WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, William Baker - President, 9830 W 10th Ct, Wichita 67212-4325

KENTUCKY

- AVS OF KENTUCKIANA**, Michael Israel - President, 2047 Sherwood Ave Apt 2, Louisville 40205-1111

LOUISIANA

- ALEXANDRIA AVS**, Joan Pippens - President, 9996 Highway 165 S, Forest Hill 71430-9660
ATCHAFALAYA VS OF AMERICA, L T Ozio, Jr. - President, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City 70380-2910
BATON ROUGE AVS, Fran Spear - President, 7660 Amite Church Rd, Denham Springs 70706-0907
JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, Genelle Armstrong - President, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie 70005-1152
LOUISIANA CNCL OF AV JDGS & GROWERS, Nancy David - President, 110 Saint Jude St, New Roads 70760-3720
SUNDOWNERS AVS, Mary McFarland - President, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge 70806-1844
THE VERBEAU AVC, Vera Contant - President, 256 Ball Park Rd, Anacoco 71403-3633
TOP CHOICE AVS, Vivian Kennedy - President, 9318 Overlook Dr, Shreveport 71118-3532

MARYLAND

- BALTIMORE AVC**, Susan Barbi - President, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
POTOMAC COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Ken Barbi - President, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis 21401-5873
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN VIOLET SOCIETY, Dianne Good - President, 5515 Old Washington Rd, Sykesville 21784-8615

MASSACHUSETTS

- ALL SEASONS AVC**, Nancy Manozzi - President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham 01702-6128
BAY STATE AVS, Nancy Manozzi - President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham 01702-6128
EMERALD NECKLACE AVC, Ruth Grieco - President, 32 Saint Paul St, Brookline 02146-6534
THE QUANNAPOWITT AVC, Edith Dahl - President, 9 Pilling Rd, Wilmington 01887-1445

MICHIGAN

- BORDER CITIES AVC**, Robert Smith - President, 6160 Old Orchard Dr, Bloomfield 48301-1471
MICHIGAN STATE AVS, Loreen Callentine - President, 2850 Green Rd, West Branch 48661

MINNESOTA

- AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY GROUP** Genevieve Zondlo - President, 3326 Lincoln St NE Minneapolis 55418-1454
AVS OF MINNESOTA, Conrad Nelson - President, 3137 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis 55407-3806
FARGO-MOORHEAD AVC, Elaine Landa - President, 1006 10th St N, Moorhead 56560-1552
JUDGES COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA, Sharon E. Johnson - President, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines
LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, Barbara Wohlferd - President, 9475 96th St N, White Bear Lake 55115-1394
MERRIAM PARK BLOOMERS, Jane Donaho - President, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul 55108-1449
NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, Barbara Werness - President, 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids 55448-7034

MISSISSIPPI

- HATTIESBURG AVC**, Bobbie Herring - President, PO Box 464, Petal 39465-0464
MEMPHIS AVS, Brenda Brasfield - President, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch 38654-9360

MISSOURI

- AMETHYST AVC**, Mrs Mary Ann Switzer - President, 1925 Lone Trail Ln, Chesterfield
AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, Shirley Swait - President, 722 N Forest Ave, Independence 64050-2320

- GATEWAY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**, Mary Manning - President, 3034 Brentmoor Dr, Arnold 63010-3771
GATEWAY WEST GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Gary Dunlap - President, 4188 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro 63050-2707
HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, Catherine Ross - President, RR 2 Box 165, Moberly 65270-9620
HI HOPES AVC, Helen Scheman - President, 5138 Waldo Ave, Saint Louis 63123-3736
INNER CITY AVS, Mrs. Barbara Fisher - President, 5119 Longhorn Trl, Florissant 63033-7706
KATY TRAIL AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Helen Blanton - President, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles 63304-7945
METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, Lavera Eaklor - President, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis 63139-1903
MID AMERICA AVS, Nancy Moerer - President, 413 NE 114th Terrace, Kansas City 64115
MIDWEST AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Sue Hill - President, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence 64055-5801
SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF AVS, Cathy Cale - President, 1154 S Pickwick Ave, Springfield 65804-0156
ST LOUIS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Ardath Miller - President, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 63011-3948
THE PIED PIPERS CLUB, Mrs Marilyn Evensen - President, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin 63011-2748
WEST COUNTY AVC, Ardath Miller - President, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester 63011-3948

MONTANA

- BILLINGS BLOOMERS AVS**, Johanne Moser - President, 2122 Wingate Ln, Billings 59102-2154

NEBRASKA

- HAPPY HOURS VIOLET CLUB**, Dorothy Elliot - President, 540 County Rd 25 Tekamah, 68061
LINCOLN AVS, Darold Hibbs - President, 2000 E Manor Dr, Lincoln 68506-2207
OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Mrs Karen Murphy - President, 5605 N 69th St, Omaha 68104-1510

NEVADA

- GROWERS STUDY GUILD**, Ruth Parish - President, 7708 Sea Cliff Way, Las Vegas, 89128-6827
RENO-SPARKS AVS, Diana Thran - President, 1155 Rosemary Ct, Sparks 89434-2558
THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Laverne Hysell - President, 1202 Arrowhead Ave, Las Vegas 89106-1404

NEW JERSEY

- AV CLUB OF BURLINGTON COUNTY**, Mrs Susan Arnao - President, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington 08016-2513
AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, Roy Goebel - President, 39 Radtke Rd, Randolph 07869
BERGEN COUNTY AVS, Joseph De Simion - President, 749 Park Ave, Oradell 07649-2009
CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, Dale Jasaitis - President, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown 08505-2912
GARDEN STATE AVC, Gary Thurman - President, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL/AV JUDGES, Frank Senna - President, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland 07436-3501
SEAVIEW AVS, Mr Lew Whitaker - President, 30 Grand Teton Ave, Howell 07731-9000
TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, Gary Thurman - President, 2028 Old York Rd, Burlington 08016-9767
UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AVS, Janet Riemer - President, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington

NEW MEXICO

- ALBUQUERQUE AVC**, Margaret Schmierer - President, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque
ALBUQUERQUE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Gary Wells - President, 4601 Pedroncelli Ct NW, Albuquerque 87107-3472

NEW YORK

- AVS OF GREATER NEW YORK**, Elsa Rockelein - President, PO Box 650133, Flushing 11365-0133
AVS OF ROCHESTER, Barbara Festenstein - President, 109 Winslow Ave, Rochester 14620-3409
AVS OF STATEN ISLAND, Mrs Leonore Gugliada - President, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island 10306-1232
AVS OF SYRACUSE, James Wildman - President, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse 13205-3011
AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, Fred Packer - President, 20 Mafalda Dr, Buffalo 14215-2018
CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, Andrea Freeman - President, 434 Bullock Rd, Slingerlands 12159-3411
COPPER CITY AVS, Mary Pat Cotter - President, 212 Maple Dr, Oneida 13421-2622
HERITAGE AVS OF LONG ISLAND, Lorraine Greco - President, 32 South Franklin Ave, Lynbrook 11563-5936
HUDSON HIGHLAND AVS, Carol Ann Burrell - President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill 12524-2446
LONG ISLAND AVS, Dorothy Vogt - President, 180 Waco St, Lindenhurst 11757-5338
MARK TWAIN AVS, Louise Lorensen - President, 339 Bentley Rd, Wellsburg 14894-9756
METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Kathryn Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
NEW YORK CITY AVS, Jim McGregor - President, 128 W 58th St, C/O Horticultural Society of NY, New York 10019-2103
NEW YORK STATE AVS, Kathryn Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Mrs Annabelle Hart - President, 118 S Crescent Dr, Rome 13440-4576
SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, Kathryn A. Rotando - President, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach 11561-3831
SWEET WATER AVS, Mr. Samuel Mednick - President, PO Box 5008, Hauppauge 11788-0601

NORTH CAROLINA

- AVS OF CHARLOTTE**, Betty Garland - President, 8112 Deerhorn Ct, Charlotte 28227-0300
FIRST GOLDSBORO AVS, Lorena Bunn - President, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill 28580-9446
GREEN THUMB AVS, Gene Tritt - President, 1409 Hurley St, Roanoke Rapids 27870-2331
PIEDMONT-TRIAD AVS, Mary Cundiff - President, 5401 Forest Oaks Dr, Greensboro 27406-8317
TRIANGLE AVS, Libbie Glembocki - President, 103 Downing St, Apex 27502-9342

OHIO

- AVS OF DAYTON**, Pat Hancock - President, PO Box 8085, West Chester 45069-8085
CINCINNATI AVS, Margie Slye - President, 2161 Bethel New Richmond Rd, New Richmond 45157-9655
COLUMBUS AVS, James Rubottom - President, 3401 Anchorage Ln, Hilliard 43026-7819
PARMATOWN AVC, Linda Neumann - President, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton
SPRINGFIELD AVC, Betty L. Bartley - President, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield 45504-3513
SUNSET AVS, Susan Miller - President, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center 43532-9405

- TOWN & COUNTRY AVS**, Gertrude Morabito - President, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville 44077-2117
TRI-CITY AVS, Mrs. James Castelee - President, 753 Windsor Rd, Troy 45373-1133
VIOLETS & FRIENDS CLUB, Martha Bradney - President, 1104 Anderson St, Piqua 45356-4348

OKLAHOMA

- AVS OF GREATER TULSA**, Rennie Taylor - President, 5916 E 28th St, Tulsa 74114-6402
GREEN COUNTRY AV STUDY CLUB, Mary E Hill - President, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa 74108-5901
LAWTON AVS, Patsy Worthen - President, 7 NW 27th St, Lawton 73505-6209

OREGON

- HEART OF THE VALLEY AVS**, Elise Ross - President, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis 97333-2928
PORTLAND AVS, Valerie Miller - President, 4108 SE Risley Ave, Portland 97267-2938

PENNSYLVANIA

- AVS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**, Susan S. Reis - President, 1181 Williams St, State College 16801-6310
AVS OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, Craig Reed - President, 119 August Ln, Lansdale 19446-6715
AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, Marianne Gershon - President, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield 19440-3269
AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, Barbara Jones - President, 909 Louis Ln., Westchester 19382-7919
DELAWARE VALLEY COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Kurt Eckard - President, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia 19128-3632
THE PITTSBURGH VIOLET & GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Ms. Carla Ryan - President, 9518 Meadow Rd, Allison Park 15101-1741

SOUTH CAROLINA

- FIRST AVS OF SPARTANBURG**, Dorothy Landrum - President, 2132 Little Africa Rd, Chesnee 29323-9787
FLOWERTOWN VIOLET CLUB, Mrs Uldene Short - President, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville
PALMETTO AVS, Trudi W. Christensen - President, 200 Lands End Blvd Apt 1015, Myrtle Beach 29572-7055

SOUTH DAKOTA

- SOUTH DAKOTA AVC**, Mrs Miriam Greene - President, 2008 S Blauvelt Ave, Sioux Falls 57105-3223

TENNESSEE

- AVS OF EAST TENNESSEE**, Mary Ann Lang - President, 1512 Scottsdale Dr, Knoxville 37922-5638
BLUFF CITY AVC, Kathy Hildebrand - President, 6470 Birkenhead Rd, Memphis 38134-5950
NASHVILLE AVS, Peggy Adamson - President, 1613 Hampton Ave, Nashville 37207-4309
TENNESSEE VALLEY AVC, Mrs Dorothy Cogswell - President, 7994 Deerfield Way, La Follette 37766
VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, Iona Pair - President, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis 38133-2802

TEXAS

- ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS**, Grace Davis - President, 3418 Urban. Garland 75041
AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, Geri Goins - President, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston 77031-2220
AVS OF BEAUMONT, Mrs. Ronna Smalley - President, 1702 Jana Dr, Lufkin 75904-5676
CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, James Sneed - President, 906 Deorsam Dr, Copperas Cove 76522-3606

CENTRAL TEXAS JUDGES COUNCIL, Shirley Sanders - President, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446
CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, Marjorie Bullard - President, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1212, Corpus Christi 78414-2639
FIRST AUSTIN AVS, Gloria DuBose - President, PO Box 724, Georgetown 78627-0724
FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, Blanca Fuster - President, 1125 Americana Ln # 1205, Mesquite 75150-7614
FIRST AVS OF DENTON, Anne Nicholas - President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
FIRST AVS OF SAN ANTONIO, Jeanne Strattner - President, 8439 Romney, San Antonio 78250-2467
FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, Sue Ramser - President, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls 76308-1908
FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, Ann Nicholas - President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton 76208-3428
FORT WORTH AVS, Laurin Virginia Linson - President, 326 Drexel Dr, Grapevine 76051-5101
FOUR SEASONS AVC, Helen Davis - President, 6348 Diamond Ave, Port Arthur 77640-1209
LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, Mary Walbrick - President, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls 76310-3029
MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, Steven Spachek - President, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio 78221-3832
MOONLIGHT AVS, Bonnie Harris - President, 2908 Fincher Rd, Haltom City 76117-4417
NASA AREA AVS, Lisa Holmes - President, 625 Shadylawn St, La Porte 77571-7256
NORTH TEXAS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Mural Fort - President, 3921 Honey Ln, Fort Worth 76180
OFFICE VIOLETS AND LUNCH, Joyce Stenger - President, Lockheed Martin Co, 555 Forge River Rd Mail Code S14, Webster 77598
PARK PLACE AV CLUB, Janette Regner - President, 7923 Glenlea St, Houston 77061-2317
SAN MARCOS AVC, Ann Wharton - President, 1202 Chestnut St, San Marcos 78666-3517
SPRING BRANCH AVC, Lenora Munk - President, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston 77080-5524
VALLEY AVS, Barbara Hasken - President, 2412 Durango Cir, Mission 78572
VICTORIA AVS, Joanne Schrimsher - President, 2205 College Dr, Victoria 77901-4474

UTAH

AVS OF UTAH, John Housek - President, 6840 W 3830 S, W Valley City 84128-3813

VIRGINIA

DANVILLE AVS, John Sullivan - President, 781 Inman Rd, Danville 24541-8047
LYNNHAVEN AVS, Sandi Flora - President, 8019 Baywood Dr, Norfolk 23518-3145
MID-ATLANTIC AVS, Sue Hoffmann - President, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach 23452-3941
RICHMOND AVS, Kathryn A. Hedgepeth - President, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond 23230-3930
THE TIDEWATER AVS, Celesta Cirkd - President, 1733 Styron Ln, Virginia Beach 23464-7522

WASHINGTON

LONGVIEW AVC, Virginia Bailey - President, 103 John St, Kelso 98626-1861
SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF TACOMA, Mr. Austin Grevious - President, 602 W Blaine St, Seattle 98119-2928
SEATTLE AVS INC, Chris Hansen - President, 11259 29th Ave SW, Seattle 98146-3458

WISCONSIN

CROSSTOWN AVC, Darleen Shillinglaw - President, RR 1, Waunakee 53597-9803
FIRST AVS OF JANESVILLE, Fay Skews - President, 10933 Cave of The Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds
GREEN BAY AREA AVS, Nancy Barry - President, 2533 Memorial Dr, Green Bay 54303-6231
LATE BLOOMERS AVS, Linda Wendler - President, PO Box 192, Footville 53537-0192
MILWAUKEE AVS, Dorothy Fossum - President, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee 53222-3522
OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, Cathy Heider - President, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro 54963-9767
WAUKESHA VIOLETEERS, Lisa Corcoran - President, 119 W Roberta Ave, Waukesha 53186-6631
WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, Kevin Degner - President, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh 54901-6828

WYOMING

CASPER BLOOMERS, Edna Tebbett - President, 969 S Grant St, Casper 82601-3356
THE SHERIDAN AVC, Debra Hanson - President, 1615 Holmes Ave, Sheridan 82801-2210

1998 AVSA Commercial Members

(Editors Note: This is the Commercial list as reported by the AVSA Office as of July 1, 1998. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

ALBERTA

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY EVELYN, K Evelyn Salamanowicz, 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary T2W 2C6

BLOOMIN' BASEMENT, Ingrid Nelson, 224 Douglas Woods Point SE, Calgary T2Z 2A7

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIOLETS IN VOGUE, Christine Estridge, 1428 Cypress Road, Sidney V8L 5R3

ONTARIO

ACA'S VIOLET-TREE, John Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd 80, Mississauga L5A 2B4

DUSTY'S HYBRID AFRICAN VIOLETS, Box 56538, Woodbridge L4L 8V3

VIOLET BOUTIQUE, Patricia Orme, 40 Pellam Cres, Kanata K2K 1J5

COSTA RICA

CARLOS PORRAS Y ASOCIADOS SAN CARLOS M PORRAS, Apartado 3966-1000, San Jose

JAPAN

GARDEN CENTER YOKOYAMA, N-4 E-4 Chuo-ku, Sapporo 60

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

COUNTRY VIOLETS GREENHOUSE, Tony Collins, 2010 Enon Rd, Webb 36376-5834

ALASKA

BEVERLY'S VIOLETS, Mrs Beverly Hendricks, 4178 Apollo Dr, Anchorage 99504-4511

MRS HELEN KRUMREY, 6609 E 12th Ave, Anchorage 99504-1737

ARIZONA

DOTTIE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, John & Dorothy Greer, 7462 E Desert Aire Dr, Tucson 85730-3800

DR B'S DIGS, Dr Barbara Vanderleest, PO Box 733, Carefree 85377-0733

HATTIE BAGGETT, HC 2 Box 381, Tucson, 85735-9714

KACHINA AV AND SUPPLIES, Mark R Lort, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale 85254-1707

MRS BARBARA FULLER, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson 85710-1043

SUSAN MERSKI, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson 85712-2403

ARKANSAS

SONJA'S VIOLETS, Sonja Holm, 15980 W Warden Rd, Omaha 72662-9107

CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD W MUELLER, 1522 Sunset Dr, Vista 92083-6533

AV ENTERPRISES PRESS, Pauline Bartholomew, 1404 N Tustin Ave Apt J4, Santa Ana 92705-8632

GINI MCCANNE, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont 91711-3461

HERBAL GARDEN'S CERAMICS, George Walsh, PO Box 38, Montara 94037

HOOVER'S HYBRIDS, Darryl Hoover, 1812 Southgate Ave, Fullerton 92833-3734

LAINY CERAMICS, Elaine A. Polick, 28506 Borgona, Mission Viejo 92692-1641

LESLIE JONES, PO Box 839, Yreka 96097-0839

MARIL PRODUCTS, Inc, Anne Whitehair, 620 S B St Ste A, Tustin 92780-4318

MARTEAL LTD, Dyna-gro, 1065 Broadway, San Pablo 94806-2260

MELVIN J ROBEY, 71231 Tamarisk Ln, Rancho Mirage 92270-2366

MIGHTY MINIS, Jean Stokes, 7318 Sahara Ct, Sacramento 95828-3905

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS, Jeff Jones, 767 N Calle Rolph, Palm Springs 92262-6152

OYAMA PLANTERS INC, George C Oyama, 1450 Post St Apt 1008 The Carlisle, San Francisco 94109

PHLOGISTICS, Florence Naylor, PO Box 1411, Ventura 93002-1411

THE VELVET LEAF, Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax 95713-9218

THE VIOLET EDGE, Rhoda Prochaska, 4869 S Bradley Rd Ste 18 B 235, Santa Maria 93455

COLORADO

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE, Douglas Crispin, 3147 S Broadway, Englewood 80110-2423

VIOLETS OF THE WEST, Jean Marie Miller, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada 80003-3943

CONNECTICUT

MARGARET FARGEOT, 235 Alps Rd, Branford 06405-4745

VERILUX, INC., PO Box 2937, Stamford 06906-0937

FLORIDA

ANDREW'S VIOLETS 'N' THINGS, Linda Andrews, 2801 Frontier Dr, Kissimmee 34744-9301

ARLENE'S VIOLETS & CACTI., Arlene Alexander, 213 Turkey Crk, Alachua 32615-9339

DUVAL'S VIOLETS AND CRAFTS, Ann L & Armand Duval, 8401 Briese Ln, Pensacola 32514-3812

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS, Alyce Droegge, 155 Spartan Dr, Maitland 32751-3427

LINDA'S LOVELY STAMPS, Linda Colborn, PO Box 4423, Sebring 33871-4423

SANDRA WILLIAMS, 102 9th St E, Tierra Verde, 33715-2203

THE ERNST NURSERY, Marion Ernst, 221 SE 70th St, Gainesville 32641-7767

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Bill & BeBe Edwards, PO Box 1274, Gainesville 32602-1274

VIOLETS ETC INC, Bonnie Schmidtkofer, 1011 Wood Ave, Clearwater 33755-3532

VIOLETS FROM THE STARRS, George & Estelle Starr, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola 32507-1637

GEORGIA

COUNTRY ROAD VIOLETS 'N' THINGS, Edward & Lois Holst, PO Box 4871, Macon 31208-4871

P J'S VIOLETS, Joan & Pierce Cumpton, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins 31088-4170

TRAVIS' VIOLETS, Travis Davis, PO Box 42, Ochlocknee 31773-0042

VIOLETS BY BEVERLY, Helen Moffatt, 4183 Quinn Dr, Evans, 30809-4819

VIOLETS GALORE OF GEORGIA, Jim & Jean Wright, 8669 Lake Dr, Lithonia 30058-6533

WENDY CRAGER, 2314 Pleasant Ridge Rd, Bremen 30110-4834, Idaho

IDAHO

VIOLETS AND COUSINS, Jan Rankin, 7078 Garden Glen Ln,
Boise 83703-2312, Illinois

ILLINOIS

VIOLETS BY JAN, Janice A. & Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln,
Hanover Park 60103-2667

INDIANA

HOG WILD VIOLETRY, Judith Nuest, 524 E 1000 S, Kouts
46347-9747

LOUISIANA

BAYOU VIOLETS, Genelle & Al Armstrong, 1313 Gardenia Dr,
Metairie 70005-1152

MAINE

PRISCILLA T HEMOND, 21 N Verrill Rd, Minot, 04258-4818,
Maryland

THE BEHNKE NURSERIES CO, 11300 Baltimore Ave, PO Box
290, Beltsville 20705-1923

VIOLET RAINBOW, Alice Bair, 1515 Bachmans Valley Rd,
Westminster 21158-3201

MASSACHUSETTS

CAPE COD VIOLETRY, John Cook, 28 Minot St, Falmouth
02540-2840

NEW ENGLAND ACRYLIC TECHNOLOGY, Ann Lofgren, 80
Richardson Corner Rd, Charlton 01507-1428

MICHIGAN

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY DON GEISS, Don Geiss, 4957 W Poverty
Perch Rd, Frederic 49733-9503

BAY VALLEY VIOLETS, Jamie Christensen, 5305 Nakoma Dr,
Midland 48640-2833

ELIZABETH L BUCK, 9255 Lake Pleasant Rd, Clifford
48727-9719

INDOOR GARDENING SUPPLIES, Tina Dickhart, PO Box 527,
Dexter 48130-0527

MINNESOTA

LEBENS GREENHOUSES, Pat Leben, 1021 Larpenieur Ave W,
Saint Paul 55113-6552

MIDLAND VIOLETS, Donald Ness, 3667 Midland Ave, White
Bear Lake 55110-7307

SOURCE TECH BIO INC, 7449 Cahill Rd # 150, Edina
55439-2731

MISSISSIPPI

H & H ENTERPRISES, Mary V Herrington, 34 Oleta Dr, Ellisville
39437-9837

THE FLOWER CENTER NURSERY, Bobbie H Beard, 3150 S
Frontage Rd, Vicksburg 39180-5253

MISSOURI

ART TRANSUE, 8704 E 92nd Pl, Kansas City 64138-4658

BUTTRAM'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, J David Buttram, PO Box 193,
Independence 64051-0193

DAVE'S VIOLET, David Harris, 1372 S Kentwood Ave,
Springfield 65804-0220

DUNLAP ENTERPRISES, Gary N & Pat Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Rd,
Hillsboro 63050-2708

SCHULTZ COMPANY, 14090 Riverport Dr, Maryland Heights,
63043-4805

NEBRASKA

KENT'S FLOWERS, Kent & Joyce Stork, 2501 E 23rd Ave S,
Fremont 68025-2478

THE VIOLET SHOWROOM, Shannon Ahlman, 310 N Walnut St,
Grand Island 68801-5960

NEW YORK

BAKER GREENHOUSE, Paul Davidson, 1113 Herkimer Rd, Utica
13502-2706

CHAMPIONS AFRICAN VIOLETS, Ethel W. Champion, 8848
Van Hosen Rd, Clay 13041-9604

EDWARD JANOSICK, RR1 Box 122, Roxbury 12474-0122

JAMES A WILDMAN JR, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse 13205-3011

LYNDON LYON GREENHOUSES INC, Paul & Sidney Sorano, PO
Box 249, Dolgeville 13329-0249

RICHARD M WASMUND, 1609 Michigan Ave, Niagara Falls,
14305-2907

ROB'S MINI-O-LETS, Ralph & Olive Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples
14512-0009

SCOTT'S MIRACLE-GRO PRODUCTS INC, 800 Port
Washington Blvd, Port Washington 11050-3720

SMITH'S COUNTRY COTTAGE AV'S, G T Smith, 109 Ogden
Parma Townline Rd, Spencerport 14559-1623

VIOLET VENTURE, FAYANNE B WAGMAN, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford
14534-3104

VIOLETS BY APPOINTMENT, Bill Paauwe, 45 3rd St, West
Sayville 11796-1109

WESTBURY GARDENS, Linda Head, 4731 Spring Lake Rd,
Wolcott 14590-9716

NORTH CAROLINA

BLUEBIRD GREENHOUSE, Elizabeth Glembocki, 4821 Jessie Dr,
Apex 27502-8858

CAROUSEL OF VIOLETS, Bonnie N Cheek, 1403 S Stratford Rd
C, Winston Salem 27103-2920

LINDA'S HEAVENLY ACCENTS, Linda Smith, PO Box 526,
Cordova 28330-0526

VIOLETS BY NAN JEFFERSON, Nan K. Jefferson, 1221 Mardele
Ln, Winston Salem 27105-1453

OHIO

B & E CERAMICS, Betty Grant, 10290 Montgomery Rd,
Cincinnati 45242-5100

GREEN CIRCLE GROWERS INC, Susan M Stieve, 15650 State
Route 511 # 2, Oberlin 44074-9465

PAT'S PATCH, Pat Hancock, PO Box 8085, West Chester, OH
45069

VIOLETS PLUS, Susan Miller, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center
43532-9405

OKLAHOMA

A NEW LEAF INC, Jackie Deatherage, 2306 S 1st Pl, Broken
Arrow 74012-7137

J F INDUSTRIES, Juanita Freeman, HC 65 Box 309-1, Pryor
74361-9644

MCCAWLEY'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Edna R. McCawley, 1721 S
Fulton Ave, Tulsa 74112-6929

OREGON

KERRY'S VIOLETS, Karyle Pasley, 1140 7th Ave, Gold Hill
97525-9632

PENNSYLVANIA

EXCELSIOR ADVERTISING INC, 2148 Embassy Dr, Lancaster
17603-2385

MELODY HARTMAN, 715 Kames Hill Rd, Columbia
17512-8422

SUSAN SHIELDS REIS, 1181 Williams St, State College
16801-6310

TINARI GREENHOUSES, Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd # 190,
Huntingdon Valley 19006-6007

VIOLET RAINBOW III, Mahlen Petry, 1590 Cranberry Rd, York
Springs 17372-8851

VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS, Naomi Martin, 3217 State Line
Rd, Waynesboro 17268-9551

TENNESSEE

HOLTKAMP GREENHOUSES INC, Reinhold Holtkamp, PO Box 78565, Nashville 37207-8565

TEXAS

ACREE CREATIONS, Yvonne Acree, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas 75220-1631

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP, Lenora Munk, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston 77080-5524

BIG THICKET VIOLETS, Mark Mason, RR 1 Box 312, Silsbee 77656-9801

HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS, Ken Froboese, 32005 IH 10 W, Boerne 78006-9240

JO'S VIOLETS, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Dr, Victoria 77901-4474

ROZELL ROSE NURSERY & VIOLET BOUTIQUE, Carolyn Rozell, 12206 State Highway 31 W, Tyler 75709-4514

SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS, Shirley L. & Sandy Sanders, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio 78221-1446

SWIFTS', June Swift, PO Box 28012, Dallas 75228-0012

TEAS NURSERY, Paul Downs, 4400 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire 77401-4306

THE MINI MANSION, Hector Becerra Jr, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio 78213-1935

VOLKMANN BROS GREENHOUSE, Walter Volkmann, 2714 Minert St, Dallas 75219-1150

VIRGINIA

WINDY FARM, Shirley Strait, HC 2 Box 515, Madison 22727-9330

WASHINGTON

ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, Alannah Regan, 3159 Highway 21 N, Danville 99121-9701

CRESCENT BAY GARDENS INC, David Erickson, 51393 Highway 112, Port Angeles 98363-8765

HENRY'S PLANT FARM, 4522 132nd St SE, Snohomish, 98296-8916 Wisconsin

BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE, Marcia Belisle, 4041 N Metnik Rd, Ojibwa 54862-4132



Edee

Miniature Trailer

*Hybridized by: **Patt Harris***

*Photo Credit: **M. Dougherty***

African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general)

by Dave Neal, CEO Dyna-Gro™ Corp.

From a presentation given at the
1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA

Part 1 of a 2 part series

In nature, a plant is a solar-powered factory that mines minerals from the soil and manufactures the organic molecules it needs for growth from those mineral elements. This organic chemistry factory produces sugars, starches, enzymes, hormones, and many more complex molecules.

Light from the sun, water and minerals from the soil, and carbon dioxide from the air interact in higher green plants to produce sugar and oxygen through photosynthesis. The photolysis of a water molecule is a central event in that process: the protons and electrons of the hydrogen atoms are used to convert radiant energy into chemical energy in the form of the ATP molecule. The sugars synthesized by the plant contain the energy of the original absorbed light in chemical form. Whether they remain as separate sugar molecules or are linked together in chains to form complex carbohydrates, they function as the plant's food, and will yield up their energy when combined with oxygen during respiration.

The main light capturing pigment of most plants is chlorophyll, a green substance capable of absorbing a quantity of both red and blue light. Leaves containing chlorophyll must have access to light to power the many organic chemical processes taking place within the plant.

What is plant nutrition?

Plants use inorganic minerals for nutrition, whether grown in the field or in a container. Complex interactions involving weathering of rocks, decaying organic matter, animals and microbes take place to form inorganic minerals in soil. Note: plants do not take up anything organic. Organic matter must be broken down into small ions which first go into solution. Roots absorb these mineral nutrients as ions in soil water. Many factors influence nutrient uptake for plants. Ions can be readily available to roots or could be "tied up" by other elements or the soil itself. Soils too high in pH (alkaline) or too low in pH (acidic) make many minerals unavailable to plants.

Fertility or Nutrition

The term "fertility" refers to the inherent capacity of a soil to supply nutrients to plants in adequate amounts and in suitable proportions. The term "nutrition" refers to the interrelated steps by which a living organism assimilates food and uses it for growth and replacement of tissue. Previously, plant growth was thought of in terms of soil fertility or how much fertilizer

should be added to increase soil levels of mineral elements. Most fertilizers were formulated to account for deficiencies of mineral elements in the soil. The use of soilless mixes and increased research in nutrient cultures and hydroponics, as well as advances in plant tissue analysis, have led to a broader understanding of plant nutrition. Plant nutrition is a term that takes into account the interrelationships of mineral elements in the soil or soilless solution as well as their role in plant growth. This interrelationship involves a complex balance of mineral elements essential and beneficial for optimum growth.

Essential versus beneficial

In 1939 professors Arnon and Stout at the University of California - Berkeley proposed a definition of an essential mineral element (or mineral nutrient) which is still cited in textbooks today. They concluded that three criteria must be met for an element to be considered essential: 1. A plant must be unable to complete its life cycle in the absence of the mineral element. 2. The function of the element must not be replaceable by another mineral element. 3. The element must be directly involved in plant metabolism. These criteria are important guidelines for plant nutrition but are based upon plant survival.

I would propose a broader definition which includes beneficial mineral elements essential for optimum growth. Beneficial elements are those that can compensate for toxic effects of other elements or may replace mineral nutrients in some other less specific function such as the maintenance of osmotic pressure. The omission of beneficial nutrients in commercial production could mean that plants are not being grown to their optimum genetic potential but are merely produced at a subsistence level. This discussion of plant nutrition includes both the essential and beneficial mineral elements.

What mineral elements do plants want or need?

Of the nearly 100 naturally occurring elements only 20 are essential for plant life. Carbon (C), hydrogen (H), and oxygen (O) are supplied by air and water. Since none of you grow plants in a vacuum or without water, we will concentrate on the soil borne elements which are broken down into two basic groups: **macronutrients** and **micronutrients**.

As the terms imply, the first group is used in large amounts by plants with concentrations measured as a percentage of dry tissue weight. The second group, also known as trace elements, is required in much smaller amounts with concentrations measured in parts per million (abbreviated ppm).

In an article entitled, "The Art of Fertilizing...Just Enough", which appeared in the November - December issue of the African Violet Magazine, Kent & Joyce Stork, from my home state of Nebraska, offered some sound counsel regarding the danger of overfertilizing violets while correctly pointing out the fact that African violets (and most plants) do best when given fertilizer regularly.

A most important point in their article is the fact that plants do not take up and use nitrogen in the urea form. They correctly point out that urea must be broken down into the nitrate and ammoniacal forms (usable by plants) by soilborne microorganisms. Since most of us grow violets in soilless mixes, the levels of these microorganisms are generally quite low. Hence, the urea is more likely to burn the roots and leaf margins than provide nitrogen for the plants.

The general rule for container growing in general and soilless media in particular is, **avoid the use of fertilizers containing urea.** The nitrate form of nitrogen is the preferable form as it results in more compact and stronger growth. Ammoniacal nitrogen tends to produce more leggy growth with longer, weaker stems.

I disagree with one statement in the article, referring to the percentage of nutrients for growth that plants produce through photosynthesis. **Plants do not produce any nutrients.** Plants take up water-soluble nutrients from the soil or other medium which their roots occupy. Starting with photosynthesis, those nutrients are combined into sugars, proteins, starches, enzymes and other building blocks of plant life to produce the growth and ultimately the reproductive stages (flowers) that we seek when we attempt to cultivate them. A plant does, however, make **all** of its own food. In plant science, food is defined strictly as organic materials capable of releasing energy when combined with oxygen.

The six macronutrients are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulfur (S). Essential trace elements include boron (B), chlorine (Cl), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), sodium (Na), zinc (Zn), molybdenum (Mo), and nickel (Ni). Beneficial mineral elements include silicon (Si) and cobalt (Co). While the beneficial elements are known to be essential to some plants, they are not deemed to be essential for all plants. The distinction between beneficial and essential is often misunderstood in the case of some trace elements. Cobalt, for instance is essential for nitrogen fixation in legumes. It may also inhibit ethylene formation and extend the life of cut roses. Silicon, deposited in cell walls, has been found to improve heat and drought tolerance and increase resistance to insects and fungal infections. Silicon can also help compensate for toxic levels of manganese, iron, phosphorus and aluminum as well as zinc deficiency. A more holistic approach to plant nutrition would not be limited to nutrients essential to the mere survival of a plant but would include mineral elements at levels beneficial for the plant's optimum growth. With developments in analytical chemistry and the ability to eliminate contaminants in nutrient cultures, the list of essential elements may well increase in the future.

The Mineral Elements in Plant Production

The use of soil for greenhouse production before the 1960s was common. Today a few growers still use soil in their mixes. The bulk of production is in soilless mixes. Soilless

mixes must still provide support, aeration, nutrient and moisture retention just as soils do, but the addition of fertilizers or nutrients is different. Some soilless mixes have calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, sulfur, nitrogen, potassium and some micronutrients incorporated as a pre-plant fertilizer. Nitrogen and potassium still must be applied to the crop during production. Difficulty in blending a homogeneous mix using pre-plant fertilizers may often result in uneven crops and possible toxic or deficient levels of nutrients. Soilless mixes that require addition of micro and macronutrients applied as liquid throughout the growth of the crop, will give the grower more control of his plant growth. To achieve optimum production, the grower can adjust nutrient levels to compensate for other environmental factors during the growing season. The absorption of mineral ions is dependent on a number of factors in addition to weather conditions. These include the cation exchange capacity or CEC and the pH or relative amount of hydrogen (H⁺) or hydroxyl (-OH) ions of the growing medium, and the total alkalinity of the irrigation water.

CEC or Cation Exchange Capacity

The Cation Exchange Capacity refers to the ability of the growing medium to hold exchangeable mineral elements within its structure. These cations include ammonium nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc and copper. Coir (shredded coconut husk), peat moss and mixes containing bark, sawdust, and other organic materials all have some level of cation exchange capacity.

pH: What Does It Mean?

The term pH refers to the alkalinity or acidity of a growing medium water solution and is defined as $-\log$ (molar concentration of H⁺). This solution consists of mineral elements dissolved in ionic form in water. The reaction of this solution, whether it is acid, neutral or alkaline, will have a marked effect on the availability of mineral elements to plant roots. When there is a greater amount of hydrogen (H⁺) ions, the solution will be acidic (pH<7.0). If there are more hydroxyl (-OH) ions, the solution will be alkaline (pH>7.0). A balance of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions results in a pH neutral soil (pH=7.0). The optimum pH range for most crops is 5.5 to 6.2 or slightly acidic. This creates the greatest average level of availability for all essential plant nutrients. Extreme variations in pH can cause mineral deficiencies or toxicity by binding up or releasing large amounts of various elements. Note that, because pH is a logarithmic scale, a solution with a pH of 5 is ten times as acidic as a pH 6 solution. Likewise, a pH 4 is 100 times as acidic as a pH 6 solution.

**(Part 2 will appear in the
November/December 1998 AVM)**

Showcase

Strawberry Wave

Standard

Exhibited by: Violet Showroom

1998 National Show

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Suncoast Paisley Print

Best Standard

3rd Best In Show

From Best AVSA Collection

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: S. Williams

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





Episcia 'Cleopatra'

Best Episcia

2nd Best In Class

3rd Best Other Gesneriad

Exhibited by: Diana Thran

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Growing African Violets in Hawaii

by Hector Wong

What pops into my mind when I hear the word Hawaii; a tropical vacation site with lush greens and flowers growing year round! The weather in Hawaii is one of the best in the world, but growing African violets can be a challenging task.

Most of the published materials on African violets are works from temperate places. Little work has been done with growing in tropical environments. In the tropics, cold weather danger is not a problem. Instead, we must know how to grow in the warm, in the moist and in the wild! The purpose of this article is to invite you to share the African violet survival tips of the tropics.

Growing African violets in Hawaii is different. One experienced orchid grower plants violets under the orchid bench. Another grower has better results outdoors than indoors! And, I like to try different things.

Clay Pots and Evaporative Cooling

My violets in clay pots grow faster and stronger than in other pots. Place a thick bottom layer of perlite to about half the height of the pot. Make sure to have water in the plant saucer. The combination of clay pots, perlite, and a filled water saucer creates constant evaporation, bringing temperatures down (evaporative cooling).

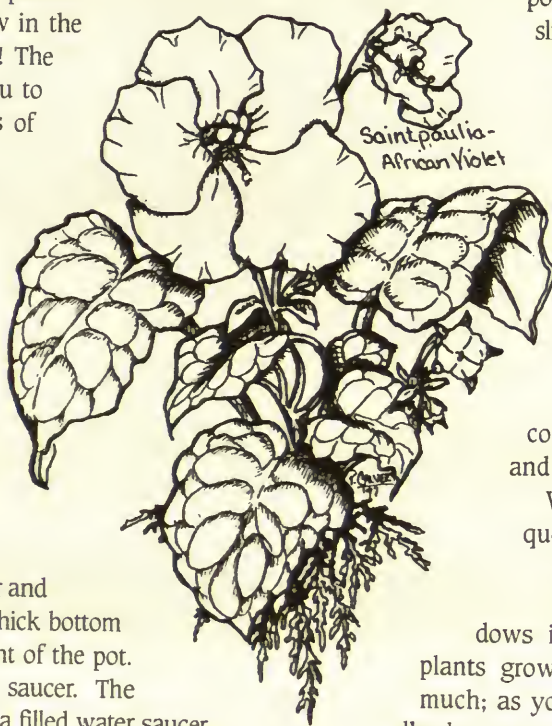
Cut 1 1/2 inch thick strip of aluminum foil and line the pot edges. This works great in preventing the bruising of delicate petioles from the rough clay and from the salts accumulated in the edges.

Have evaporative cooling of some sort. If you don't use clay pots, then place trays filled with water and pebbles, mist several times a day, or get an evaporative cooling system as used in greenhouses!

P & P

My potting soil is made from 50% peat moss and 50% perlite. The high perlite content increases evaporative cooling and air circulation. When using a more complex soil recipe, make sure to have a 50% perlite ratio.

I don't add any dolomite lime into my potting soil because my tap water is slightly alkaline. Also, most of Hawaii's tap water is very clean and drinkable, thus we find that the potting media stays sweet for a longer time and repotting is less frequently needed.



Wet The Leaves

Top water and wet all the foliage, as if you were watering your lawn. Wetting leaves, cools down the plant, washes off dust, and increases evaporative cooling.

Water spots or burns are not too frequent. Sunlight hits the tropics in a very perpendicular angle, thus the light coming through our windows is reflected and mild. Also true, plants grown in fluorescent light don't mind much; as you know fluorescent lighting generally does not cause water spots. Mildew? Crown rot? Not much. Most houses in Hawaii have open windows with good air circulation and little temperature fluctuations. Damage to open blossoms? Yes. Avoid wetting the blossoms to make them last longer.

Wetting leaves is very beneficial against pests. Often, when you spray with insecticide, more benefits are done from wetting the plant than from the chemicals in the spray. Cyclamen mites and thrips hate water.

Growing for show? Fill a spray bottle with hot tap water. Spray your foliage from one foot away, thus allow-

ing the water to become cooler. Avoid the blossoms. The warm water brings the African violet's natural waxes out, making the foliage very shiny.

Cyclamen Mites and Thrips

I put my plants in a clear plastic bag for 2 months. Cyclamen mites die in the enclosed humidity-saturated air. This is also a great way to isolate new plants.

Back in 1995, I lost most of my collection due to foliar thrips. I could not find any references on foliar thrips. While examining my plants with visitors to Hawaii, Joyce and Kent Stork we found thrips. Foliar thrips are similar to blossom thrips, but they feed on the leaves. Foliar thrips are seen crawling through leaves, making thin circular brown lines as they crawl and feed. Eventually, the leaf will show moist brown dead spots.

The symptoms are very similar to crown rot, but the roots and the plant core are still healthy; new growth can reappear.

To control foliar thrips, and thrips in general, I place bright yellow plastic cups coated with Vaseline, one or two per plant shelf. Amazing! Flying critters get stuck to them. Also, I mist the plants with plain water almost every day. Thrips hate water, so get a big spray bottle!

Don't worry too much about isolating new plants in the tropics. Again, tropical homes have open windows, so anything can fly in and out. However, learn how to control it.

Grow What Grows

Purple, purple with dots, pink, white, stripes . . . African violets come in different colors and varieties. Every year, hybridizers create dozens of new varieties. Some African violet varieties do better in the compost pile than growing in the tropics. Get it? Keep growing, buying, exchanging, and discard varieties that do not perform well for your growing environment. Soon, you can write your own 'Honor Roll' list.

My favorite African violet species are *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, S. Robertson, and *S. diplotricha*. My favorite hybrids are Rob's series trailers, 'Wrangler's Dixie Celebration', and 'Optimara Monet'. 'Golden Plume' grows exceptionally well, keeping great variegation even in very warm temperatures. Sorry, but 'Tiger' will not grow for me.

In Conclusion

Growing African violets in Hawaii is a challenging task. Do things differently when growing in the tropics.

(About the author: Hector Wong has been growing African violets in the tropics for 15 years. He teaches workshops at the University of Hawaii Lyon Arboretum. Call 808-988-7378 for a class schedule. You may contact Hector on the Internet at www.hectorwong.com or at the affiliate African Violet Society of Hawaii.)

DID YOU KNOW?

by A. Nonny-Mousse

- That you can plug leaks on cracked plastic pots with silicone sealant?
- That you may make leaf supports out of round cardboard pizza package bottoms?
- That you can make your own sticky strips by using left-over pieces of board strips, painting them yellow, and applying tangleroot or anything sticky to them?
- You can use transparent 2" mailing tape for hinges on plastic flower box terrariums? It also makes a good tape to use on lid tops when transporting to shows. It comes off without residue.
- You can use potato chip bag clips to keep plastic flower boxes (the kind used in corsage presentations) shut when sprouting seeds (tiny ones).
- That you can use yellow margarine tubs (small ones) to hold a solution of soap and water to kill bugs on your plant stands. It is especially good for fungus gnats. It's the **yellow** color that attracts the bugs. The soap prevents them from escaping by its surface action on their bodies and wings.
- That clear vegetable bags from the supermarket are useable as temporary greenhouses for cuttings and wilted plants. If the bags have been used to carry any plant material, be sure to wash them with soap and water inside and out.
- If you can't get labels or price tags off your pots, boxes, etc., use WD 40 Spray. Just saturate the spot affected, wait a bit, then use a rough rag or soil scraper until all the sticky is gone. Wash with soap afterwards. This works on gum also.

Reprinted with permission from
Violets Agrowing, Cape AV Society

TAKE A PLANT TO THE OFFICE

By Joyce Stenger • Houston, TX

An *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch' was the gesneriad that captured the attention of my co-workers. This plant was nice and large with beautifully formed foliage having a multitude of runners reaching out and draping around stems of huge leaves. Beneath the massive rosy-bronze colored leaves, the squat pot that held the plant was almost hidden. To best display the showy elegance of this plant, it was displayed high on top of a filing cabinet for everyone to enjoy. Folks did notice.

Then it happened! The *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch' started blooming. First just a few buds showed color. Then finally those long trumpet-shaped blossoms unfolded their brilliant red-orange color. The curious from the furthestmost reaches of the office building began to stop by to see that "red-orange, rosy-bronze plant." Equal amounts of men and women had some interest. Enticed, folks asked to try a starter plant.

All the runners were eventually removed from the mother plant to the pleasure of hopeful growers. Each runner was gingerly put into a small cup of soilless mix, then taken to its new home at someone else's desk. Later, growers who brought in a gallon of water received a scoop of plant fertilizer for their jug. Across the blue and gray decor of the office workplace, the *Episcia* color was showing up everywhere. Guys and gals were growing it.

New growers started asking questions about soil, wicking, and watering. A smaller core group talked about swapping plants, sharing leaves, or growing different varieties. Someone asked, "Why not start a growers' group?" A VIOLET CLUB AT WORK! What would the

company think? Where would we meet? Do we need officers?

The core group got together during lunch to make a list of suggestions for starting a club. The deputy director explained the company's ground rules. Questions and issues were easily resolved by majority vote of the core group. Each prospective member donated "pre-dues" which were double the annual dues so a checking account could be opened with our state's banking minimum. The

first officers were volunteers. After selecting a club name, we registered with AVSA. We were now a new club!

These events happened four years ago. Club members now grow many different varieties of violets and other gesneriads at work and at home. The harsh office environment is a challenge for growing plants; however, many do bloom there. There are no shows or displays as yet, but we do go on field trips. We also are exhibitors in a "Fellowship" category of a local violet club that has an annual show.

Semi-annually we have a silent auction to raise funds for community projects. Sale plants are purchased since members do not want to sell plants they grow. Company regulations are carefully observed; however, managers boast of plants they have acquired from our group.

You, too, can start a club just as easily as this one was started. Perhaps your best plant is another variety of Gesneriad or an outstanding violet. Maybe your office is a different environment. Why not take your best-growing plant to your office and see what happens!



DENVER'S 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Janice Sorensen • Englewood, CO

Were you interested in African violets in the late 1940s? Were you growing them? The African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1, was and still is. Although not a charter member, Ella Kiesling joined in 1954 and as an active member now, still enjoys growing, showing, judging, and hybridizing African violets. Honored as Queen for the Day, while braving a case of pneumonia, Ella was the highlight as current and past members gathered at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Waring House on February 8, 1998 to celebrate the club's 50th Anniversary.

The past and current members of Chapter 1 and club friends attending the Open House were treated to a tasty selection of refreshments. The large dining room table in the historic Waring House was lovely in its display of featured African violets (grown by member Nelly Levine) and decorations of balloons, silver coffee and tea services and a cake sporting African violet blossoms made from purple icing. It was with grateful appreciation to the Denver Botanic Gardens for the use of the home for the celebration. It has been used as the club meeting site since the opening of the gardens.



Ella Kiesling

In the foyer a registration table and book greeted guests. A poster announced the Golden Anniversary celebration with a water color of a golden yellow-blossomed African violet

plant. Member and past president, 'Becky' Shoun illustrated the poster, showing that her artistry goes beyond her large, award-winning African violets.

Memorabilia on display were scrapbooks, notebooks of the club's earliest minutes and bylaws, yearbooks, show schedules, old master variety lists, and miscellaneous society publications. Guests were able to reminisce and relive good



Becky Shoun

times and friendships. Past member and president, Sally Roesner, was among the previous members in attendance. Ella Kiesling and another active member, Eleanor Elliott, have the two longest memberships which date back to the early-mid 50s.

Although Chapter 1 currently has a membership of fourteen, five are AVSA judges, including Ella as a master judge, and Fran Ratte' as an AVSA teacher. An annual project is to hold a plant show/exhibition and sale. The club actively supports its affiliation with the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. Several active members helped the club and council in both the 1979 and 1994 AVSA Conventions held in Denver. The challenge of membership is even more important now, for the future.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Grandma's Zach, Phantom Flash; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Porcelain Doll, Boo Man; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy, **Sandy Skalski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Wee Be, Optimara Little Aztec; Best Semiminiature: Peppermint Doll; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**. Best Design, **Dorothy Taylor**.

AVS OF CANADA, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Lion, Anastasia, Raspberry Crisp; Best in Show/Best Standard: Red Lion, **Tony Hulleman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Crystal, Rob's Willy Nilly, Optimara Little Diamond; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Rob's Doochickey, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Antique Rose, Optimara Little Shoshone; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robert McCabe**. Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Bruce Young**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Richard Harriman**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Electra', **Shirley Turner**. Best Design, **Eleanor Elston**. Design Sweepstakes, **Audrey Moir**.

AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fall Colors, Anastasia, Becky; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Cupid's Kiss, That's Show Biz; Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Standard: Daisy's Delight; Best Semiminiature: Symphonette; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Best Trailer: Rob's Sailor Bill, **Margaret Gratto**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Irma Waltemath**. Best Design, **Betty Nagy**.

AVS OF DAYTON, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Cinnamon Girl, Fancy That; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pal Vikki; Best Trailer: Princess Trail, **Anne Thomas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Paradise Pink, Jazzy Jewel; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogeysman, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Rob's Whodunit; Best Miniature: Toy Castle; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'King's Cloak', **Heather Herznier**. Best Design, **Thelma Lawson**.

AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Disco Blue, Ultra Violet Orbit, Ultra Violet Halo; Best Miniature: Mildly Meek; Best Trailer: Jet Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mildred Patrick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Ricki Oscarson**.

AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Rebel's North Star, Rebel's Snowy Bright, **Ruth Bann**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Black Plum, Ness' Candy Pink, Edward's Delight; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Dolores Harrington**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Optimara Little Blackfoot, Optimara Little Aztec; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria bella*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Beginner's Luck; Best Design, **Palma Trapp**. Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Jane Donaho**. Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Tobin**.

AVS OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Rebel's Watercolor Rag, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lemon Drop, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best in Show/Best Standard: Woodland Sprite; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best Miniature: Black Rain; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Puff, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince', **Jill Fischer**. Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Roy Goebel**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite, **Angela Rosenbaum**.

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Glitter Lace, Ness' Blue Velvet, Apache Land; Best in Show: Apache Land; Best Semiminiature: Slow Dancin'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adelle Johnson**. Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy; Best Trailer: Teen Trail, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Lady', **Mildred Aske**. Design

Sweepstakes, **Edward Johnson**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Shades of Autumn, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, Rhapsodie Michiko; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Michiko; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kurt Eckard**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Ode to Beauty, Windy Day, **Betty Branson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Pewter Bells, Lakeshore Silver; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Mohawk, **Marianne Gershon**. Best Semiminiature: Denny Boo; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn'; Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy DePhillippo**. Best Design, **Judy Smith**.

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pueblo, Rain Man, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rain Man, **Doug Burdick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph & Olive Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Miriwinni, Rob's Humpty Doo, Rob's Galiwinku; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Ruby; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sugar Cube, **Molly Judge**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Faded Jade', **Shari Leary**. Best Design, **Diane Johanson**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**.

THE AVS OF STATEN ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Best Friends, Super Duper; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Nancy Hayes, Rosina, Pixie Blue; Best Semiminiature: Little Ghost Dancer; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Trailer: Lil Runaround; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Brocade'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lee Gugliardi**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sheer Romance, **John Papalia**.

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Ms. Pretty, Optimara Maui; Best in Show/Best Standard: Misty Frost; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Jo Ellen Bowden**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Halo's Aglitter, Ness' Viking Frost, Blue Mink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Twinkle Pink, Lemon Tart, Ness' Angel Babe; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Sando**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Coleman**.

THE BALTIMORE AVC, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Manitoba, Optimara Monet, Optimara Leonardo Davinci, **Toki Ridinger**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Rainbow, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Golden Touch; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rodney Barnett**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Prince of Dixie, **Marie Burns**. Best Gesneriad: *xCodonanthus*, **Shirley Hoffman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathy Gee. Ode to Beauty, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Bright Honey, Rob's Cotton Ball; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Susan Gimblet**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mystery; Nancy Reagan, Favorite Child; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince'; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Slow Dancin', Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Antique Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Carol Hess**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Suzanne Ress**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rose Picturesque, Halo's Aglitter, Lela Marie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Cooper**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Von's Simple Simon, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Katherine Steele**. Best Standard: Star Trek; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Earth Angel, **Lorraine Johnson**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Sunset', **Geneva Stagg**.

CARLSBAD AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Green Eyes, Nortex's Radiant Haven, **June Strong**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot, **Audrey Hanthorn**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Lyon's

June Bug; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lyn Sweeney**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Dorothee Schindler**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Pauline Mueller**.

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Victory, Optimara South Dakota, Frosted Whisper; Best Standard: Apache Victory; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Design, **Nancy Sneed**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Ness' Satin Rose, Shy Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Petite Blamey; Best Trailer: Little Chippy Trail, **Blake Mayfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx* 'New Mexicanus', **Mellor Garlick**. Design Sweepstakes, **Gloria DuBose**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Classic Rock, Irish Flirt, Moon Silk; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Classic Rock, **Stan Barnes**. Best Standard: Marie's Pacific Serenade; Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donnie Barnes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Helen Sepe**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Country Neon', **Renee Wilson**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Laverne Cotter**.

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Niagara's Critic's Choice; Picturesque; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Mini Sota, Winnergreen, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Standard: Picturesque; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Seminole; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea flaccida*; Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Officer Krupke, Sunlit Velvet, Favorite Child; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sheer Peach, Rob's Dust Storm, Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Annabelle and Wilson Hart**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Connecticut Belle', **William and Robin Yager**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Cathy Best**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Nancy Manning**. Best Design, **Annabelle Hart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Cotter**.

DES MOINES EVENING AVC, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dancin' Trail, Happy Trails, Foxwood Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Titania; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janet Purdom**. Best Semiminiature: Shan; Best Miniature: Quaker, **Judy Zegers**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Diana', **Gloria Slater**. Best Design, **Deb Oelmann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts**.

EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Boca Grande, Officer Krupke, Taffeta Petticoats; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Humpty Doo, Milky Way Trail, Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Standard: Boca Grande; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ramona Hodges**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Miniature: Little Lexi, **Kim Eskew**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Jane Sherer**. Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Henderson**.

FANTASY AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: I Feel Pretty, Optimara Vienna, Georgia Lover; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dancin' Trail, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Vienna; Best Semiminiature: Candy Crystals; Best Trailer: Candlelight Waltz, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Miniature: Pink Imp, **Norma Vila**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Anna Horvath**. Best Design, **Jim Duerstock**.

THE FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Ann, Picasso, Ode to Beauty; Best in Show/Best Standard: Barbara Ann; Best Semiminiature: Vagabond; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Jay, Vintage Wine, Bertha; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Virginia Linson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Candy Crystals, Sweet Cherub, **Paula Foster**. Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Rae Adams**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**.

FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Wewonchu, Rodeo Country, Melodie Kimi; Best in Show/Best Standard: Aca's Wewonchu; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Allene Peek**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Little Butterfly, **Sue Ramser**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Mary Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Christmas Holly', **Joanie Sleeper**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Walbrick**.

FIRST NIGHTER AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Ann, Ode to Beauty, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Barbara Ann, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Definitely Darryl, Lollipop Kid; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Paula Foster**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Arctic Frost, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Wishful Teen, **Ray Pittman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Design Sweepstakes, **Bill Foster**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Something Special', **Margery Clive**. Best Design, **Sue Frauli**.

GARDEN STATE AVC, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Mini Papa, Lace Shadows; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Semiminiature: Mini Papa; Best Miniature: Loupy Lou; Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx lynchii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powder Keg, Taffeta Petticoats, Red Robe; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**.

GREEN THUMB AVS OF FAYETTEVILLE, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blackie Bryant, Rita Hilton, Picasso, **Margaret Condit**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Jealous Jewels, Optimara Monet, Maiden; Best

Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Peggy'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruby Pope**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Pink Satin, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Satin, **Candace Page**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Mary Hill**.

GULF AVC, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Taffeta Petticoats, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Audrey Buchanan; Best in Show/Best Standard: Snow Squall; Best Semiminiature: Audrey Buchanan; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinick**. Best species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lillian Scott**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet', **Eleanor Duer**.

HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, FL - Winners: Best in Show: Ness' Pink Patches; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lucy Wall**.

HEART OF MISSOURI, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Lela Marie, Nortex's Petticoat Haven; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Baby Brian; Best Standard: Optimara Monet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cotton Ball, **Catherine Ross**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Joe Schulz**. Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara Arizona, Fantasy Radiance; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Gold Rush; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Camille Henderson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #7; Best Miniature: Black Rain; Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*, **Carol Ann Burrell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wooloomooloo, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Willawong, **Stephen Burrell**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Handpainted', **Barbara Perrott**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Kel Seberle**.

ILLINOIS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, INC., IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Ocean Eyes, Splendiferous; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Silver Spook; Best Standard: Ocean Eyes; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail, **Stephen Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: East Wind, Optimara Centennial, Rhapsodie Rose; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cupid's Kiss, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Sioux, **Andrea Worrell**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Morgan Simmons**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Gary Mikita**. Best Miniature: Windsome; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Mack**.

INDIANA STATE AVS, IN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blushing Ivory, Ode to Beauty, Designer Dress; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bashful Baby, Texas Buttercup, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Jeann Willey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia brevopilosa*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *pendula* Cape Cod; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeff Smith**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Standard: Lady Baltimore; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', **Gary Mikita**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laurie Mitchell**.

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Blushing Ivory, Painted Sunrise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Rob's Pewter Bells, Persian Lace; Best in Show/Best Standard: Makin' Romance; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Opal, **Frances Berman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Makin' Romance, Ness' Northern Lights; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Dorothy Vogt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Orchid Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Szostak**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Anita Rudolph**. Best Design, **Rosemary Macaluso**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Lohan**.

MASTER CITY AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Apache Fire, Ghost Dance; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Frosty Fun, Irish Flirt, **Jim Wright**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Vince's Choice, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Love in Bloom; Best Design, **Sharon Miles**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Almost Sinful, Rob's Dust Storm; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jean Wright**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Broget Stavanger', **Lois Duvall**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond, **Stephanie Duncan**. Design Sweepstakes, **Angelika Bondar**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Snow Squall, Frosted Flames; Best Standard: Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Lee Smith**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: King's Treasure, Ness' Lucky Freckles, Looking Glass; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Wee Dreamer; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Avis Winnie, Snuggles Rising Star; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Alicia', **Peggy Adamson**. Best Design, **Iona Pair**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ultra Violet Dusk, Ultra Violet Flash, Optimara Grenada; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marching Band, **Mary Ann Switzer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Party Lace, Orchard's Purple Haze, **Susan Hapner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Joy's Pink Halo, Irish Flirt, California Sunset;

Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ardath Miller**. Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue, **Janet Graves**. Best Trailer: Kissaway Trail, **Mary Mahen**; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson, **Gary Dunlap**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', **Carolyn Burr**. Best Design, **Glenda Holm**. Design Sweepstakes, **Helen Blanton**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie, Rhapsodie Candy, Optimara Manitoba II; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Fiddlesticks; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Lyon's Pinky Wink; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Inferno'; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. Best Standard: Tomahawk, **Don Goodwin**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Charlene Cwalesky**.

NEW YORK CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lyon's Country Moonlight, Mindi Brooke; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Toorooka; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lyon's Country Moonlight; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's June Bug; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Rob's Jindalee; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Star of Bethlehem'; Show Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cherry Sparkles, Lyon's Pink Cadillac, Rain Man; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Whodunit, Shy Blue, **Joseph Palagonia**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flight, Melodie Maki, Rhapsodie Michiko; Design Sweepstakes, **Barb Werness**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Marching Band, Victorian Petticoats; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Standard: Marching Band; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jim Graf**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Slow Dancin'; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper, **Sandy Officer**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Ruth Bann**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', Carol Semrau. Best Design, **Jinean Scheffield**.

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Best Friends, Happy Cricket, Frances Young; Best Standard: Best Friends; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Cathy Heider**.

PARMATTOWN AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bo Peep, Lollipop Kid, Pink Skies; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Bell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Dove, Spring Peach, Optimara Little Crystal; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale**. Best Standard: Rapid Transit, **Marge Kovach**. Best Trailer: Darling Blue Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Linda Neumann**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petunia', **Carol Shepard**.

OTTAWA AVS, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogleyman, Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Semiminiature: Von's Simple Simon; Best Miniature: Pink Pet; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pewter Bells, Snuggles Snow Baby, Rob's Denim Demon; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Design Sweepstakes, **Bruce Young**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Gerry Pinard**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Dick Harriman**. Best Design, **Bill Westbrook**.

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Dominica, Candy Swirls, The Alps; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bogleyman, Rob's Macho Devil, Lemon Cookie; Best Standard: Concord; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **John Jugenheimer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Merry Christmas, Victorian Velvet; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Alma Lavine**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Trails, Linda Darnel, Snowy Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Linda Darnel; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Celia Schafer**. Best Design, **Marlene Wright Wagner**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

RICHMOND AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Pink Pansy, Optimara Trinidad, Rhapsodie Monique II; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **David Hudson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Alamo Red, Ness' Blue Velvet; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Bo Peep, Handmade; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita latifolia* x *linariifolia*, **Barbara Peterson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Standard: The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Kitty Hedgepeth**. Best Design, **Bill Schmidt**; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Long**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marching Band, Peach Puff, Pretty Mama; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Vanilla Pink, Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Trailer: Wood Trail, **Betty Margetts**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Gaugin, Optimara Stockholm, Officer Krupke, **Elaine Niece**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pearl, Cutie, Alan's Valley Girl; Best in Show/Best Standard: Magnolia; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Trudy Brekel**. Best Miniature: Cutie; Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Little One'; Best Design, **Bev Promersberger**. Design Sweepstakes, **Colleen Clark**.

THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lyon's Country Moonlight, Mindi Brooke; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Toorooka; Best

in Show/Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Rob's Jindalee; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Mindi's Tears, Picasso, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Dust Storm, Shy Blue; Best Semiminiature: **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Standard: Picasso, **Bud Weber**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Island Silver', **Kathryn Rotando**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**. **SILVERMINE AVS, CT - Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Centennial Purple, Optimara Harlequin, Canadian Sunset; Best in Show/Best Standard: Centennial Purple, **Sylvia Siegel**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Whodunit; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Miniature: Everdina; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Wallach**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'King's Cloak', **Jean Simons**. Design Sweepstakes, **Cindy O'Brien**.

SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTREAL, CAN - Winners: Suncoas Paisley Print, Picasso, Mindi Morn, **Marie Gagnon**. Best in Show: Picasso, **Claire Gamache**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec, **Colette Rioux**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Bellehumeur**. Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail, **Nicole Charbonneau**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Daniel', **Clarie Gendron**.

SUNDOWNERS AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Marching Band, Rodeo Country; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Snowfields; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary McFarland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Marching Band, Rodeo Showgirl, **Lura Weathers**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #6, **Peggy Luzarraga**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Rob's Gray Ghost, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**. Best Miniature: Gleeeful Elf, **Robert Truax**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields', **Carolyn Foster**.

SWEET WATER AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Heavenly Notes, Bud's Melanie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Hull**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Antonia, Lela Marie, Wild Irish Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose; Best Semiminiature: Moon Gold; Design Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Klein**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Rob's Puddy Cat, Teen Sweetheart; Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail, **Viets By Appointment**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Mildred Kiernan**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite, **Eileen Montgomery**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Clown Prince', **Ray Annabel**. Best Design, **Marilyn Heinrich**.

TIDEWATER AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Private Stock, Picasso, Harbor Blue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Ness' Firefly, Rob's Hopscotch; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hopscotch; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Christmas Morn'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Magnolia, Lela Marie, Taffeta Petticoats; Best Design, **Carol Van**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Mulroy**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Rose Dudley**.

UNPREDICTABLES AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blanche Holt, Hoot-n-toot, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Katsuko Davison**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia magungensis* var. *minima*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Linda Golubski**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Silver Spook, Rob's Dust Storm, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **June Bartrum**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Boondoggle; Best Miniature: Everdina, **Wilma Wolverton**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Kathy Lundgren**. Best Trailer: Snowy Trail, **Beulah Cupito**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sylvia Prince**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: D'Artagnan, East Wind, Optimara Van Gogh; Best Standard: Burnished Halo, **Floyd Lawson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Denny Boo, Prancing Pony; Best Semiminiature: Denny Boo; Best Trailer: Sunset Trail; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Sandy Purins**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Barbara Nussear**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Happy Willie', **Leslie Cox**.

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Chris, Apache Romance, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; Best in Show/Best Standard: Raphael; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Terena Stotler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Chimney Sweep, White Dew, Shy Blue, **Martha Bradney**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Tiny Moon Goddess, **Shirley Jones**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Greta', **Sheila Tipps**.

THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Tiger's Son, Favorite Child; Best Standard: Pink Ahoy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Beatrice Marx**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Shy Blue, Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Martha Spyridon**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirdla, **Carolee Carter**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Leticia Potter**. Best Design, **Jana Finchum**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lynn Di Maio**.

JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET CONNECTION MAIL GROUP

by Lynda C. Welchel • San Antonio, Texas

Welcome to the electronic community and the wonderful world of African violet information via the Internet. The African Violet Connection (AVC) mail group provides African violet information delivered free of charge to your e-mail account 365 days a year, rain or shine.

E-mail may be received via your computer, or you can use a web-TV box. A web-TV box attaches to your TV and gives you access to the internet without a computer, allowing you to receive e-mail and the ability to "surf the net". (The web-TV box with keyboard starts as low as \$200.00). You will need to have a phone line nearby or have one installed, and also subscribe to a provider service (probably about \$20.00 per month.) A lot of people only have e-mail. Can they subscribe? Yes! Anyone can apply to subscribe to the list.

One great advantage for a new subscriber is that you can access the archives on the African Violet Connection 24 hours per day. You can search for information previously posted by subject, author, or date. Subscribers to the group are from America, Europe, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Asia and come from all walks of life.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- Read this list on the Web at
<<http://www.FindMail.com/list/avconnectionn>>
- To subscribe, email to
<avconnectionn-subscribe@makelist.com>
- To unsubscribe, email to
<avconnectionn-unsubscribe@makelist.com>

Once you subscribe, the web site will contact you asking that you reply to confirm your subscription. That's all there is to it! You will receive all mail posted to the African

Violet Connection everyday, within minutes of a message being posted.

If you choose to reply to a message you can use the reply portion of your message mailbox or enter this address <connectionn@findmail.com> (PLEASE NOTE: connectionn (has 2 'n's on the end of the word)

The African Violet Connection is open to the public, and there are restrictions on what you can and cannot post. These are explained on the web page, but if you have specific questions, please send me a private e-mail message to <lcwelchel@stic.net>

A sampling of subjects already discussed are light tubes for plants stands, soil mixtures, repotting day strategy and techniques, transporting African violets in your car, mildew, sporting violets, growing in hot conditions, various ways to wick a plant, fertilizers, variegation and show plant strategy.

Future Plans:

- Look for a message discussing a leaf exchange in the fall.
- Members of the AVC mail group are planning to meet one another at the Lone Star African Violet Convention in Austin, Texas this fall.
- Plans are also being formulated to have an informal get together at the AVSA Convention next year in Houston, Texas.

Hope to visit with you in cyberspace very soon!

Lynda C. Welchel

List Manager

African Violet Connection

There are several forums/mail groups for African violet enthusiasts to join:

- Gesneriphiles Mail Group
<<http://spot.colorado.edu/~otton/g.html>>
- Judges Forum on AVSA Web Sit
<http://www.avsa.org/judges_forum.html>
- AOL Violet Board - Instructions for reaching:
After logging on to AOL, go to the CHANNELS screen. Click on "Interests". When that screen comes up, click

on "Home and Garden" under "departments". On that screen, click on "Gardening", then click on "Post tips - A to Z". Click on the A-L Message Boards, then "African Violets" to reach the AOL Violet Board. (Be sure and mark this as a "favorite place" so you can automatically reach it each time you log on.)

- Garden Web AV Forum
<<http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/afrviolet/>>
- AV Connection Mail Group
<<http://www.FindMail.com/list/avconnectionn/>>



AVSA and Today's Technologies

by John Carter

AVSA Technology Committee

JTCarter@worldnet.att.net

Does your affiliate need members? Would you like to start a new affiliate? The first step is to maintain your affiliate membership. You should also provide information about your affiliate for posting on the Internet. Bev Promersberger at promers@juno.com will assist you in that effort. If you wish to recruit members for your affiliate from the AVSA membership, I can provide you with name and address information of AVSA members in your area which will allow you to contact them with an invitation to visit your meeting and learn the benefits of membership in your club.

The principle use of the AVSA computing system is for the maintenance of the membership. AVSA membership is important not only to AVSA but also to the many affiliate members. AVSA does not know if a member is associated with an affiliate nor does it know the number of members in an affiliate. It is not the intent of AVSA to try to maintain that level of data either. We do not know if the members that are not renewing are or were associated with an affiliate. What we do see are a number of members not renewing after their first year of membership. If they were active in an affiliate, would they have renewed their membership?

I recently made an analysis of the AVSA membership in the Houston area and compared that membership count to the number of members in the affiliates. The membership count of the affiliates was not as accurate as the AVSA

membership count, but it appears that no more than 30 percent of the AVSA members in the Houston area are associated with an affiliate club. Is that important? It is if the affiliates are in need of members. It is important to AVSA if the association with the affiliate will help retain the person as an AVSA member.

If you would like to receive AVSA membership information in a computer format, make that known in your request to Bev.

We recommend that you request the information by zip code if you live in a larger city or in an area where you may draw members from nearby communities. The information can be provided in different formats. If you have someone familiar with computers, we can send the information on a diskette or attached to an e-mail note in any number of forms. If you only want a listing on paper, we can provide it in that format. Providing the data electronically is a new effort so we need to learn what will help you and develop procedures that will make it easy to respond to your requests in a timely manner.

This offer is only made to affiliates, and the information is not to be used for any commercial purpose. Your request must include your affiliate name and the person to receive the information. If you can receive the data electronically, we only need your e-mail address. If you want a diskette or listings mailed to you, please include your address and zip code.

Awards Needed For The 1999 Houston Convention

With the participation of the clubs and growers in Texas, where we all know they "do things bigger and better", the 1999 Houston Convention should be a great success. Let's get those awards in early so they will be published in the January/February 1999 AVM with all other convention information. Make your checks payable

to the AVSA Convention Fund and mail to:

Linda Golubski, AVSA Awards Committee Chairman

1416 N.W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816) 229-2015 after 6 pm CDT

<golubski@kc.net>

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING

April 25, 1998 • Sacramento, California

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America was called to order by Third Vice President, Jack Wilson, at 3:05 PM in the Edgewater Ballroom F at the Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, California. The Invocation was given by Floyd Lawson. A moment of silence was observed for those members who are deceased. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Jack presented the President, Esther Edwards Wells.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

President Wells introduced Normadene N. Carpenter, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, who served as Parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and they were adopted.

President Wells appointed Doreen Lay to serve as Chairman of the Committee to Approve the Minutes, Gary Gordon and Linda Owens, members. Ron Davidson was appointed Timekeeper. In the absence of Charles Wells, Chairman of the 1997 Committee to Approve the Minutes, the President reported that the minutes were approved.

Elinor Skelton, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

Pat Richards, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following report: Director Nominees: Dolores Gibbs, Texas; Olive Ma Robinson, Taiwan/New York; Wilma Namumnart, Hawaii; Patricia Sutton, Oklahoma; and Mary Ann Switzer, Missouri.

Bev Promersberger, Affiliate Committee Chairman, reported for the Affiliate Committee. The Affiliate Committee is offering affiliates an opportunity to list affiliate information on the web site. They will be listed under the city and state where the affiliate meets.

Article V, Section 4, of the Bylaws states that elections shall be by ballot vote; however, when there is only one nominee for an office, the election may be by voice vote. The following Directors were nominated by the Nominating Committee to serve until the close of the Annual Meeting in the year 2001: Dolores Gibbs, Olive Ma Robinson, Wilma Namumnart, Patricia Sutton, and Mary Ann Switzer. Hearing no nominations from the floor, a

voice vote was conducted and the new Directors were elected. The President announced that the new Directors would be installed at the Saturday Evening Banquet.

The five Directors who completed their terms this year were recognized: Barbara Elkin, Mary Lou Harden, Betty Roberson, Shirley Sanders, and Laura Walker.

Meredith Hall, 1999 Convention Chairman, on behalf of the Lone Star African Violet Council, invited the membership to attend the 1999 Convention at the Adams Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas.

Linda Golubski, Awards Chairman, announced that those award winners who had not picked up their awards should contact her.

President Wells announced that the Board approved four research grants totaling over \$14,000 from the Boyce Edens Research Fund at their April 22 Board meeting. Dr. Cole explained the grants: Dr. Michael Moeller will conduct research on DNA typing and genetic sequencing of the African violet species; Dr. Larry Barnes will conduct research on Botritis control and other viruses of African violets; Dr. Michael Way will study thrips and test methods of allowing a fumigant to be placed in a confined area to control thrips and other insects; and Dr. Harvey Lang will be working with African violets to determine the effect of water quality, soil type, and fertilizer type on the growth, soil pH, and soluble salts. The last three will be presented in the AVM within three months. The President also announced that the Board approved the establishment of an AVSA Scholarship Committee.

Anne and Frank Tinari were recognized for their attendance at 50 Conventions. Raffle winners were announced.

There was no other business to come before the Annual Meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 PM.

Sue Ramser, Secretary

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE

*Doreen Lay
Gary Gordon
Linda Owens*

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 1997

ASSETS	1997	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (continued)	1997
CURRENT ASSETS:		Deferred membership fees (note 1)	\$ 73,028
Cash	\$102,884	Deferred life memberships (note 5)	109,275
Investments (note 2)	165,387	Deferred income, future conventions.	2,735
Credit card receivable	-	Deferred revenue - other (note 1)	727
Inventory	13,530	Total current liabilities	192,569
Prepaid expenses	10,309		
Total current assets.	292,110	NEW ASSETS:	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT , net of		Unrestricted:	
accumulated depreciation of \$66,873		Operating	7,163
and \$61,448 (note 4)	112,085	Board designated - convention.	25,878
		Board designated - life membership	17,077
OTHER ASSETS:		Board designated - Boyce Eden	49,324
Reorganization costs net of accumulated		Board designated - Hudson awards	1,152
amortization of \$4,880 and \$4,880 (note 6) . .	-	Board designated - building.	-
		Property and equipment	108,035
PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:		Total unrestricted net assets	208,629
Investments (notes 1 and 5)	32,500	Temporarily restricted.	2,997
Total assets	\$436,695	Permanent restricted	32,500
		Total net assets	244,126
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		Total liabilities and net assets	\$436,695
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Payroll and sales tax liabilities	\$ 1,365		
Deferred advertising income (notes 1 and 3)	5,439		

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

One of the greater Conventions has come and gone (I'm biased) and for the most part El Niño was kept at bay. And you know what? I can't take credit for either. The former was handled by the best chairs and workers ever. The latter was handled by someone with more power than we mere mortals. Once again, I want to thank all the members of California, and those from out of state, who made this event the best ever. A convention is only as good as the people who do all the work.

How about that full size miner, Quitos, and those terrific dancers? The Banjo Band kept our feet tapping, and I know for sure that Clyde, the donkey, had a great outing, eating all those cookies. I missed the tours and will have to take your word for it, but from what I heard, they were fun too.

Now, down to the business at hand. I received, as usual, many 1998 catalogs from the commercial members of our society. There were so many new, or should I say old, (maybe I should say new to my Master Vintage Violet List,) varieties in these catalogs. If only there were enough space to list all the plants found this year. Spend a buck or two and order your catalogs every spring and reap the treasure of our

past heritage.

If you want me to look for a Vintage Violet for you, please remember to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for my reply. If you do receive something from someone good enough to share, always return the postage whether asked for or not.

For our **FOREIGN** members, skip the postage; the money exchange causes too many problems. AVSA has offered to pay the postage. While we're at it, try my e-mail address. No postage is required, and it's much faster. <jabar@foothill.net>

See you in Houston!

The following varieties have been found:

Amethyst, Butterfly White, Coppertips, Coral Glo, Corpus Christi, Lady Mountbattan, Le Bon Creole, Little Rascal, Mary, Mighty Mini, Modern Jewel, Ness' Minnesota Splash, Norseman, Nymph Fly, Rob's Sailor Bill, Roseberry, Rainbow's Black Frost, Rainbow's Tequila Sunrise, Painted Sunset, Suncoast Wedgewood, Tidecrest, Unpredictable, White Lace, and Zaca-roonie.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Antique Elegance
Ballet Erica
Dominion Rose
Granger's Fashionaire
Granger's Eternal Snow
Granger's Venetian Lace

Great White Way
Just Beautiful
Pink Velvet
Regina
Rosy Frills



'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet :-)

by Ellen Wass Beckerman

Most members of our society can be said to use good manners. We're nice, friendly people interested in African violets. This common ground makes it easier for us to interact, even if we are from different states or countries. At our conventions we have lots of visual communication such as demonstrations, and we have plenty of photographs and illustrations in our magazine to help us learn about African violet growing. Unfortunately, communication via the Internet is primarily written and unlike communication in person where you can visually interpret facial expressions or on the telephone where you can hear the qualities in a person's voice. Communication on the Internet must be made completely with the written word.

AVOID THAT CAPS LOCK KEY!!!

The very first lesson a new Internet user should learn when posting information to a bulletin board, entering comments on a survey or simply e-mailing friends and associates is: DO NOT TYPE IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. CAPITAL LETTERS are used only for EMPHASIS. Any Net-knowledgeable user who reads your correspondence will immediately assume that you are ANGRY and that you are SHOUTING AT THEM!

The opposite, typing in all lowercase letters, is also not recommended. It is very difficult to find the beginning of a sentence when an initial capital isn't used. In addition, many people find it insulting if you do not capitalize the letter at the beginning of their name or of their company's name.

E-mail is Public

Remember that sending an e-mail message can be similar to having your mother show your baby pictures to all of your friends and relatives. Forwarding an e-mail message to another person is a common practice and many people enjoy sharing cute stories and jokes with each other. However, it's important to remember to be polite and courteous, especially if you are posting a complaint. (Many times it's best to write the message in your word processor and wait a day before you copy it to your browser to send, giving you the opportunity to change your mind after you've cooled down.) Nasty, rude communications usually spawn nastier responses. This type of insulting communication is called FLAMING.

SPAM is not a Meat By-Product

Spamming is the act of sending an unsolicited message to a large number of people, usually for the purpose of advertising. It's not spam if you've voluntarily put your name on a list. It's perfectly acceptable to send a message to a group of people that you are working with; one of the best examples is sharing information with members of an AVSA committee. Group messages are some of the quickest and most effective methods of keeping people informed.

DO NOT TO FORWARD CHAIN MAIL. People who use e-mail regularly get dozens of messages per day. DO NOT harass them by sending them junk messages. (People who forward chain mail messages have been known to get spammed with an avalanche of junk messages by angry chain mail recipients.)

A Few Special Characters :-)

Since we must communicate with words on the Internet, a whole language of special characters and abbreviations has been developed over the years. I've included a few of the most commonly used in the inset shown above. You can find lots of others at www.bellsouth.net, click on the member help section.

Special Characters & Abbreviations	
:-) or :)	Happy Smiley (with or without nose)
;-) or ;)	Wink (with or without nose)
: (	Frown
(grin) or (g)	Indicates you're grinning
IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
FYI	For Your Information
TTFN	Ta Ta For Now

Ellen Wass Beckerman is an AVSA member and Apple Macintosh computer consultant near Charlotte, North Carolina. Her internet address is: e_mail@bellsouth.net

1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables

by Ruth Goeke • Brenham, TX

An exciting week filled with friends, fun, food, sight-seeing, and beautiful plants was enjoyed by everyone who had the fortunate experience of attending the 52nd AVSA convention held in Sacramento, California in April.

One of the highlights of every convention is the commercial display section of the show. While there were only three display tables this year, each was beautifully done and all of these plants traveled many miles to appear in the show. Our commercial members work very hard to bring us these lovely plants and new varieties.

Taking top honors of Best Display Table were **Sidney and Paul Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Dolgeville, New York**. All of their plants were exquisite and covered with many blossoms. Their table featured 36 miniature and semiminature plants and three standards. All three best new introductions were found on this table. Best New Introduction was awarded to 'Ms. Smartypants', a semiminature chimera with white, semidouble, slightly cupped pansy-shaped blooms, pink center stripes and a frilly green edge. Second Best New Introduction was 'Hula Hoop', a small light blue semidouble chimera with a white stripe and miniature, medium-green foliage. Third Best New Introduction, 'Little Chatterbox', features deep pink stars splashed with deep blue fantasy over deep green semiminature foliage. You'll want to get at least one of each! Other varieties on this table included 'Party Flirt', 'Katia', 'Tequila Sunrise', 'Ice Storm', and 'Hotsy Totsy'. Standards exhibited were 'Hawaiian Pearl', which has lovely ivory stars banded in a wide halo of deep lavender-rose and deep green foliage. Blossoms of deep pink with green ruffling on petal edges literally danced over the large, dark green, red-backed foliage of 'April in Paris'. 'Boo Man' had such a full head of blossoms you could hardly see the foliage and 'Lyon's June Bug' is another necessity for your collection. Its perfect rosette form will surely bring home that best in class. There was nothing shy about a pretty little semiminature named 'Bashful'. It was simply loaded with soft white blossoms mottled in shades of pink and fuchsia.

Ralph and Olive Robinson of Rob's Mini-o-Lets located in **Naples, New York**, exhibited another beautiful display table that we have come to expect. They took hon-

ors as having the Second Best Display Table. He entered 45 lovely miniature and semiminature plants. My favorites on this table were 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' and 'Rob's Twinkle Blue'. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' won second best new cultivar at last year's AVSA convention and has lots of medium pink semidoubles over variegated foliage. 'Rob's Twinkle Blue' is a must-have! It is a very tiny plant with lots of deep blue semi-bell shaped blossoms over very tiny pointed dark foliage. This micromini is perfect for those container gardens. There were several groupings of this precious little plant and it made for a striking exhibit. 'Rob's Macho Devil' is a variety you'll want to include in your collection. Other varieties displayed were 'Rob's Fiddlesticks', 'Rob's Dandy Lion', 'Rob's Perfect Peach', 'Rob's Boondoggle', and everyone's favorite, 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle'. 'Rob's Heat Wave' was sizzling. Receiving the coveted award of having the best overall plant in the commercial display division was a plant of 'Rob's Boogie Woogie'. 'Rob's Gizmo' was lovely with its mass of large pink stars covering semiminature foliage.

Shannon Ahlmann of The Violet Showroom of Grand Island, Nebraska, entered 15 large, lovely standards and received the award of Third Best Display Table. Seven of these had variegated foliage. For those of you who like edged blossoms, make a note of 'Strawberry Wave'. It has lovely huge strawberry pink semidoubles with a raspberry sparkle edge. Several striking new varieties were featured on Shannon's table, and they included 'Blue Dragon', a Sorano hybrid with huge, light blue blossoms and two hybrids from Ruby Cox, including 'California Berries' which had beautiful berry red white-edged blossoms that literally glowed. This will be a welcome addition to any collection. 'Pink Flasher', the other new Cox variety, was also a striking plant with its pink and white blossoms. It was wonderful to see a number of Apache plants exhibited on this table. The Apache series is hybridized by J.C. Munk of Houston, Texas, and Apache varieties are all large-growing plants with gorgeous variegated foliage and large lovely blooms. You'll want to check out 'Apache Thunderbird' with its deep purple semidoubles and green edges, 'Apache Wonder', which has wonderful pink-edged semidoubles, 'Apache Star', whose large pink stars shone above the beautiful variegated foliage, and my favorite,

Continued on bottom of page 51

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***Maty** (8725) 4/20/98 (D. Harrington) Single red/violet overlay. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

***Therese** (8726) 4/25/98 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

***Yvon Decelles** (8727) 4/25/98 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble blue star/white streaks, edge. **Variegated** medium green, pink and white, scalloped. **Standard**

June Swift - Dallas, TX

***Pastel Parasol** (8728) 5/18/98 (J. Swift) Single-semidouble lavender-pink large frilled star/white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

David Buttram - Independence, MO

*Fantasy Magic * Fire House * Hello Twilight * Raspberry Magic

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

* Go Go Dancer * Mucho Bonito * Que Pasa * Que Sera Sera
* Quixotic Lass

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

* Madam President * San Mateo

Ed Ellwood - Roanoke, VA

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ellwood's) *
Blue Beth * California Carrie * Lavender Liz * Lil Liz * Pink Beth
* Pretty Carrie



"Display Tables" continued from page 50

'Apache Victory'. Other lovely plants exhibited included 'Powder Keg', 'Stargate', and 'Sequins 'n Ribbons'.

In the Specimen Class Division, there were a number of familiar names taking the top awards. **Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets, San Antonio, Texas**, exhibited the Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: 'Optimara Little Moonstone', 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Diamond'; Second Best Holtkamp Collection which included 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Lapis', 'Optimara Little Ruby'.

Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, Nebraska, won the Best Holtkamp collection consisting of 'Optimara South Dakota', 'Optimara Harlequin', and 'Rhapsodie Angelica'. The best standard with green foliage was 'Good Morning', also exhibited by Kent.

Fay Wagman of Violet Venture, Petterford, New York, received these awards: Second Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: 'Frosted Denim', 'Rob's Tippy Toe', 'Ness Angel

Babe', Third Best Holtkamp Collection, 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Little Apatite', and 'Optimara Rose Quartz'. Best semiminiature, green foliage: 'Rob's Iridium Queen', Best semiminiature, variegated foliage: 'Rob's Hallucination'. Fay also took honors of having the best African violet in the commercial specimen class with 'Ness' Angel Babe'; second best African violet in the commercial specimen class: 'Rob's Iridium Queen'; and the third best in specimen class: 'Rob's Penny Ante'; best miniature with green foliage: 'Rob's Penny Ante'; and sweepstakes with 17 blue ribbons.

Lynn Lombard, The Velvet Leaf of Colfax, California took honors of the Best Other Gesneriad with a lovely specimen of *Columnnea* 'Julia'.

Gini McCanne of Claremont, California entered the Best miniature, variegated foliage: 'Petite Jewel', and best trailer: 'Cirelda'.

We'll enjoy growing the new varieties and look forward to seeing the commercial displays and entries again next year in Houston.

Coming Events



September 11 - 12 - FLORIDA

Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society and
Upper Pinellas AVS
Joint Show/Sale
Clearwater Mall, US 19 & Gulf to Bay
Clearwater, FL
Both days: 10am - 9pm
Info: Phyllis King (813) 398 - 7450

September 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Eden Prairie Mall
Highways 464 & 169
Mall Hours
Info: Barbara Werness (612) 754 - 3918

September 12 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of San Francisco Plant Sale
San Francisco Co Fair Bldg
9th Ave and Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Judy and Fred Grafelman (415) 664 - 9308

September 12 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall, Mills Rd and Main St
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

September 18 & 19 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS of Dallas Plant Clinic and Sale
Plano Market Square Mall (Garden Ridge)
1717 Spring Creek Pkwy. and Ave K, Plano, TX
Sept 18 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 19 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (214) 278 - 0389

September 19 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS Plant Sale
Market Mall Shopping Center
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mall Hours
Info: Winston Goretzky (403) 241 - 8300

September 25 & 26 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall
Waterloo, IA
Sept 25 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 26 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barb Pershing (319) 987 - 2235

September 25 & 26 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Show
Memphis Botanic Gardens
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center, Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 6pm
Info: Brenda Brasfield (601) 895 - 2002

September 26 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis
AV Council 16th Annual Show/Sale
West Port Plaza, Indoor Mall
St. Louis, MO
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Mildred Borsch (314) 878 - 8187

September 26 & 27 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Exhibit/Sale
Westroads Mall
102nd & W Dodge Rd
Omaha, NE
Info: Patty Burke (402) 289 - 3328

September 26 & 27 - CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin AVS Display/Sale
Weberstown Mall
4950 Pacific Ave
Stockton, CA
Sept 26 - 10am - 7pm
Sept 27 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Evelyn Stein (209) 835 - 2983

September 26 & 27 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS Sale/Exhibit
Friendship Conservatory
395 Algonquin Rd
Des Plaines, IL
Info: (847) 729 - 1690

October 2 & 3 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas Plant Sale
Richardson Square Mall
Beltline & Plano Rd
Richardson, TX
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

October 3 - WASHINGTON

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma Plant Sale
Poole's Nursery and Garden Center
6th & Union, Proctor District
Tacoma, WA
Hours: 10am - 3pm

October 3 - CONNECTICUT

Judging School
Windsor Library, Windsor, CT
Nancy Hayes, Teacher
Hours: 9am - 4:30pm
\$15.00 fee
Reservations: Ruth Warren (401) 624 - 7373

October 3 & 4 - OHIO

Ohio State AVS Show/Sale
Kingwood Center, Park Ave
Mansfield, OH
Oct 3 - 1pm - 5pm
Oct 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Linda Owens (614) 876 - 1805

October 3 & 4 - LOUISIANA

Louisiana Council of AV Judges & Growers
(LACO) Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA
Oct 3 - 2pm - 6pm
Oct 4 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Mary McFarland (225) 923 - 3337

October 9 & 10 - NORTH CAROLINA

First Goldsboro AVS Show/Sale
Berkeley Mall
Goldsboro, NC
Mall Hours
Info: Frances Deans (919) 778 - 3179

October 9 - 11 - FLORIDA

AV Council of Florida Show/Sale
Coral Ridge Mall
Oakland Park Blvd & Federal Hwy
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Oct 9 & 10 - 9am - 9pm
Oct 11 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Janice Stencel (954) 472 - 4475

October 10 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guerneville Rd @ Hwy 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Sherry Olsen (707) 836 - 0910

October 10 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Saintpaulia Society
AV Design Competition
Winrock Mall, Louisiana & I-40
Coincides with Albuquerque International
Balloon Fiesta
Judges Needed
Info: Judy Sturtevant (505) 275 - 0170

October 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AV Society Show/Sale
Shepherd Garden and Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA
Oct 10 - 2pm - 5pm
Oct 11 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Elkin (530) 878 - 0505

October 10 & 11 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 10 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 11 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

October 16 - 18 - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs Judged Show/Sale
89 East Towne Mall
Madison, WI
Oct 16 & 17 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 18 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

October 16 - 18 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Display/Sale
Maplewood Mall
White Bear Ave @ I-694
Maplewood, MN
Oct 16 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 17 - 10am - 6pm
Oct 18 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Ness (612) 429 - 4109

October 17 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Plant Sale
Zilker Park Club House
Barton Springs Rd
Austin, TX
Hours: 10am - 4:30pm

October 17 & 18 - MISSOURI

Gateway West Gesneriad Society Show
Missouri Botanical Garden
Ridgeway Center
4344 Shaw Blvd
St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Pat Dunlap (314) 789 - 3604

October 23 & 24 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Display/Sale
Ft. Meyers - Lee County Garden Council Bldg
2646 Cleveland Ave, Ft. Meyers, FL
Oct 23 - 9am - 6:30pm
Oct 24 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Eleanor Duerr (941) 574 - 2489

October 24 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Ctr.
5 Municipal Dr
Jacksonville, AR
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Danny Tidwell (501) 726 - 4803

October 24 - NEBRASKA

Missouri Valley AV Council Show/Sale
Holiday Inn Convention Center
3321 S. 72nd
Omaha, NE
Hours: Noon - 5pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478

October 23 & 24 - CALIFORNIA

AV Council of Southern California
Judged Show/Sale
Trinity Lutheran Church
997 East Walnut
Pasadena, CA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Mary Blancher (818) 363 - 6222

October 29 - November 1 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council State Convention & Show
Holiday Inn - South
1-35 South
Austin, TX
Info: Judy Carter (281) 492 - 2034

October 31 & November 1 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show
Har Mar Mall
2000 Snelling Ave and Cty B
Roseville, MN

October 31 & November 1 - CALIFORNIA

San Mateo Co. AVS Judged Show/Sale
San Mateo Garden Center
605 Parkside Way
San Mateo, CA
Oct 31 - 2pm - 5pm
Nov 1 - 9:30am - 3pm
Info: Al Cornibe (408) 423 - 7297

October 31 - November 1 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale
Days Inn
Exit 55, I-95
Branford, CT
Oct 31 - 1pm - 5pm
Nov 1 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

November 6 & 7 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall
Bypass 301 & Hwy 64
Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman (919) 459 - 3722

November 7 & 8 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Joseph F. Haggerty Center
51 East Hanover Ave
Morristown, NJ
Nov 7 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Carol Ann Burrell (914) 896 - 8605

November 7 & 8 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Grace McCurnin (913) 722 - 4085

November 12 - 14 - MARYLAND

Mid-Atlantic AVS Convention and Show
Hosted by Baltimore AVC
BWI Sheraton Hotel
Baltimore-Washington International Airport
Baltimore, MD
Info: Ken Barbi (410) 757 - 5044

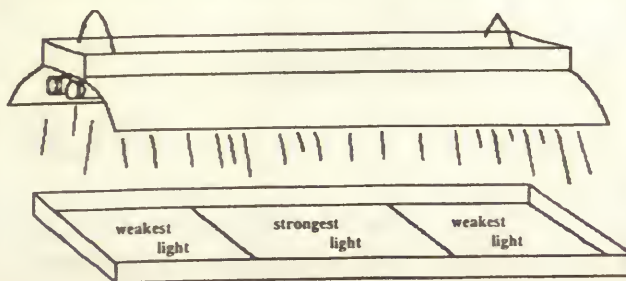


Placing African Violets Under Lights

If you want to grow show-quality violets, you should know where the weakest and strongest light is located. Refer to the drawing.

In general, if a violet lifts up its leaves, it needs more light. Move it closer to the center of the lights, or elevate it up closer to the lights. If its leaves curl down, get brittle, or look bleached, it needs less light. Move it closer to the ends of the lights or to a spot adjacent to the lights.

It may take a little experimenting to find out where each violet is the happiest.



Reprinted from the California Council News

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 TUE	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 WED	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
3 THU 4:21 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
4 FRI	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
5 SAT 7:48 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 SUN	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 6:22 am
7 MON 8:53 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 TUE	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 WED 9:17 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
10 THU	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 FRI 10:41 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
12 SAT	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 8:58 pm
13 SUN 2:20 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
14 MON	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 TUE 8:48 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
16 WED	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
17 THU	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
18 FRI 5:51 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
19 SAT	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
20 SUN 4:57 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	New 12:01 pm
21 MON	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
22 TUE	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
23 WED 5:22 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 FRI 6:05 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
26 SAT	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
27 SUN	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
28 MON 5:51 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd 4:12 pm
29 TUE	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 WED 1:54 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 THU	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
2 FRI 6:24 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
3 SAT	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 SUN 7:32 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 MON	Aries	Fire	Barren	Full 3:12 pm
6 TUE 6:58 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
7 WED	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 THU 6:44 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
9 FRI	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
10 SAT 8:48 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 SUN	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
12 MON	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 6:11 am
13 TUE 2:25 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
14 WED	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
15 THU 11:32 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
16 FRI	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
17 SAT 11:02 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
18 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
19 MON	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
20 TUE 11:37 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 5:10 am
21 WED	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 THU	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
23 FRI 12:17 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
24 SAT	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
25 SUN 12:05 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
26 MON	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
27 TUE 9:45 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
28 WED	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 6:46 am
29 THU	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
30 FRI 3:58 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
31 SAT	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4



The Leader in Full Spectrum Plant Lighting!

Independent laboratory testing proves that Verilux lighting provides the closest spectrum to natural sunlight. Our unique phosphor blend is the most stable on the market. Engineered to retain its true color for a minimum of 6,000 hours!

- ***Experience premium plant growth & extended bloom***
- ***Provides even distribution of red light for quick growth and flowering, and blue light for compactness***
- ***Quality light enhances the colors of plants without distortion!***

Verilux plant lighting is available in fine catalogs such as GARDENER'S SUPPLY, WORM'S WAY, AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, and THE HEALTHY LIGHTING CATALOG.

***Also available at
fine garden centers
everywhere!***



verilux®

9 Viaduct Rd. Stamford, CT 06907

Phone: (888) 544-4865 • (203) 921-2430 • Fax (203) 921-2427

E-Mail: Verilux@Ergolight.com • Internet: www.ergolight.com

**LAST CHANGE TO ORDER BEFORE
THE WINTER CUTOFF FOR SHIPPING!
A SAMPLING OF OUR VARIETIES**



STANDARDS

Hancock's Buckeye Colossal, Buckeye Cherry Pink, Buckeye Ballerina
Croteau's Astral, Coeur Corail, Impresario, Guest, Italian Spice (limited on this one)
NESS' Blueberry Puff, China Blue, Blue Wave, **ORANGE PEKOE** (we have a good number of this variety for fall shipment).
SORANO Holiday Lights, Christmas Glitter, Taffeta Petticoats, Painted Desert
STORK Gemstone Halo, Shattered Glass, Pen 'n' Ink, Pueblo, Marie, All Is Well
WILLIAMS Suncoast Circle Candy, Suncoast Retta - Ro, Suncoast Blue Cranberry
DECELLES Celebration, Coralina, Defi, Flamingo

MINIATURES-SEMIMIINIATURES

LAMBERT'S Von's Soft Touch, Von's Small Gift, **Pittman's** Cool Blue, Gleeful Elf, Peppy Pink, Planet Kid, Texas Space Dust
HOBBS-GREGG, Dean's Bashful, Dean's Lucienne, Dean's Ruby, Dean's Faded Rose
ROBINSON'S Rob's Boogie Woogie, Club Soda, Gizmo, Smarty Pants, Whoa Nellie, Twinkle Blue, Scarecrow

TRAILERS!!

My Smokey's Tr., Beacon Tr., Cherokee Tr., First Robin, Ellie Gardner, Kissaway Tr., Ramblin' Lassie, Little Chipperry Tr., Rob's Gundaroo, Rob's Boolaroo, Santa Fe Tr., White Magic Tr., Twice Pink.

Space does not allow for us to give descriptions of all the lovely plants that we have available. You may order our 1998 catalog for \$1.00 which contains the descriptions.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 for \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases - 24 for \$24.00 Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over 50 add 10 cents per leaf. Shipping on plants is \$7.00 for up to 6, and 40 cents for each additional plant.

We will ship in the Northern and Eastern states until November 1st where weather permits. Southern states until mid-November.

Make check payable to Shirley Sanders
 1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX. 78221 • 210-923-1093



Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

The 1998 Releases from
Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses

(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1998 Catalog

Available Feb. 15th

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
 Tyler, TX 75709-9738

Phone: 903-595-5137
 Fax: 903-593-7956



'Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler'

is now available (See AVM May, 1997). Also many other "Buckeye Beauties" with gorgeous blossoms on variegated foliage. 40 exciting "Colonials" and others from Australia. List \$1.25 (\$1.00 Refundable) cash or stamps please. Leaves only.

Pat Hancock

P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

episcias

Our
First
Year

A & W
VIOLETS
 Leaves and
 Starter Plants

violets
 Free
 Price
 List

8704 E. 92nd Pl. Kansas City, Mo. 64138



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants
 Catalog \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
 desertviolets@theriver.com

(520) 326-3057

2511 N. Desert Ave.
 Tucson, AZ 85712

Bluebird Greenhouses

Apex, NC
At the Peak of Violetry



Send \$1 for catalog. Open 9-12 weekdays.

4821 Jessie Drive

Apex North Carolina 27502

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie@ibm.net
http://RTPnet.org/~avsa/bbhome.htm



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive *Chatter*, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10,

also CHIMERAS. Latest releases from MARIE BURNS, DATES, BARBARA ELKIN, BILL FOSTER, LYONS, D. HARRINGTON, KENT STORK, WRANGLERS and much more.

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00. Gifts, cards, and notes available.

NEW NUMBERS - Fax 508-540-5427

email violets@cape.com - Web page www.cape.com/~violets

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

3"-3 1/2"-4" round tubs have rolled rims

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.50	57.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.00	4.25	7.90	14.75	63.00
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40
4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12	25	50
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75		
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00		
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	1.50	8.50	16.20		
	4.75	27.00	51.00		

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13"	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00; West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PETER'S WATER SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
12-36-14	African Violet Special	4 oz.	8 oz.
5-50-17	Variegated Special	\$1.60	\$3.00
		1.60	3.00
15-16-17	Peat-Lite Special	4 oz.	12 oz.
		1.25	3.00
20-20-20	General Purpose	4 oz.	16 oz.
15-30-15	House Plant Special	1.25	3.00
Dolomite Limestone		1.25	3.00
Charcoal	No. 4 Coarse	20 oz.	2 lbs./\$1.75
	No. 6 Medium	1.75	40 oz.
		1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss		1.75	5.00
		432 cu. inches	\$3.75
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide			
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths			

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25
32 oz. - \$10.50
1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79
1 oz. - \$3.97
2 oz. - \$4.55
4 oz. - \$7.19

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

FERTILIZERS

Bateman's, Dyna-Gro,
Optimara, Peters, Shultz

CHEMICALS

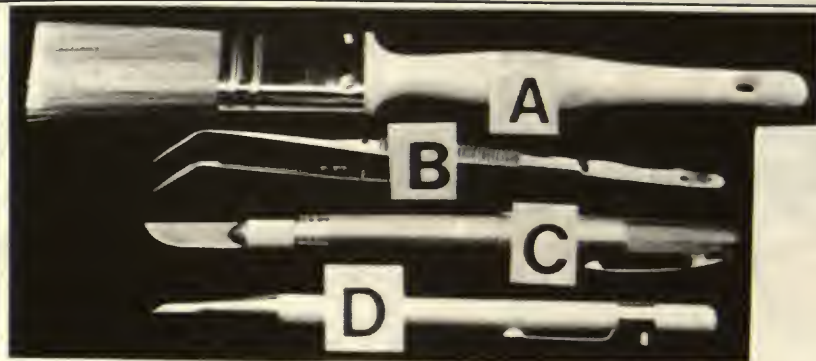
Phyton 27, Benomy, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



VIOLET GROOMING KIT

All four items (A, B, C, and D); \$29.99 includes shipping and handling (and a free copy of our 30 page supplies catalog and plant list). Colo. residents add 3% sales tax. (Orders outside United States add \$3.00 for air mail and insurance.)

- (A) **GROOMING BRUSH** - soft, exploded tip-polyester, very effective removes dust and dirt from foliage without damage, 8-1/4" long. Support each leaf with your hand as you groom it.
- (B) **GROOMING TWEEZERS** - ideal for getting in at the center of a violet where fingers just can't reach. Removes small suckers before they get large enough to spoil the plant's shape. Stainless steel, 6" long.
- (C) **LEAF CUTTING KNIFE** - super little pen knife with a screw-on cap with pocket clip. Extremely sharp blade is great for preparing leaf cuttings or scraping the "neck" of an old plant to rejuvenate it. 5-1/4" long.
- (D) **RETRACTABLE BLADE KNIFE** - a life saver when cutting out larger suckers to be rooted (as with chimeras) or when removing the center of a plant to force sucker development. The sharp 1/4" x 1/8" blade lets you cut just where you want to. 5 1/2" long.

These items are also sold separately through our supplies catalog. Send for your **FREE** complete plant stands & supplies catalog/descriptive plant list. Clubs/large scale growers ask for our discount bulk supplies list with your catalog/list. Prices subject to change without notice.

MASTERCARD, VISA and DISCOVER accepted Phone (303) 761-1770 FAX (303) 762-1808

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY • DEPT AV • ENGLEWOOD, CO 80110
 Mon. - Sat. 10 to 5 • closed Sun. & Tues. - Since 1969



OVER 800 VARIETIES

List, \$1.50. Refundable

FALL SHIPPING NOW!!

LEAVES AND SOIL MIX ONLY

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

OPEN HOUSE - Sept. 24-26, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Won't get to retire yet, So I'll be back next year. **LOOKING FOR:** Ravishing Ruffles, Pink Elegance, Cosmos, Plum Lacy, Coral Cove, Twinkle, Dream On, Ness' Frosted Freckles, Shimmer Frost, Sugar Dandy, Wind Chimes, Miss Beautiful, Moon Silver, Zonta, Rebel's Valiant, Rainmaker/Blansit, Daphne/High Hill. **WILL TRADE STANDARDS.**

SONJA'S VIOLETS

15980 W. Warden Road, Omaha, Arkansas 72662



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

SUPER SPECIAL

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



Try our **SUPER SPECIAL** - Twelve Husky Starters - all different - \$36 Postpaid - All plants OUR CHOICE, but all different. New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our new plants. Specify: Special #1-Standards; Special #2-Semis and Minis; Special #3-Standards, Semis and Minis; Special #4-Standards, Semis, Minis and Trailers. Send \$2 for our new 1998-99 Catalog. **VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER Credit Card** - List all info on card (exp. date) Minimum credit card order \$30. Visit our Web Site - www.imox.com/travisviolets

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality hybrids since 1954

To receive a copy of our 1998
please send
\$3.00 U.S./\$5.00 International

African Violets
Columneas Streptocarpus
Aeschynanthus Sinningias
Codonanthus Kohlerias
Episcias and more!



Visit our web site at
www.lyndonlyon.com

Home of the 1998 Award-Winning New Introductions

AVSA Convention - Sacramento, CA

Best New Introduction: Ms. Smarty Pants

2nd Best New Introduction: Hula Hoop

3rd Best New Introduction: Little Chatterbox



African Violets • Gesneriads • Orchids • Exotic Houseplants • Hanging Baskets

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329
315-429-8291

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



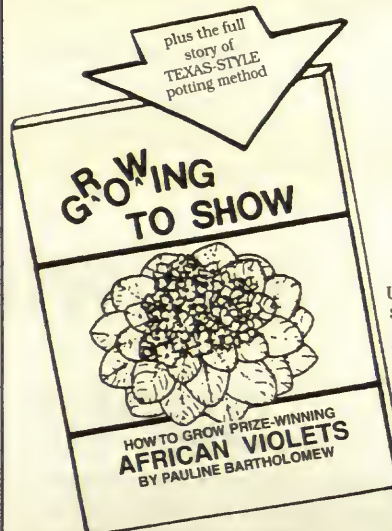
**Teas Catalog
FREE to AVSA**

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne (includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



**A step-by-
step guide**

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or **\$2.50** surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.



5" x 6 1/2" Note Cards with African Violet
Blossom Photos plus envelopes
\$10 for five cards
Gloria Goetzke • 2105 Summertime Lane
Culver City, CA 90230



AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057



To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). To receive 500 labels, mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label above. Orders will be submitted every time 30 are acquired.



Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to
The Gloxinian magazine (four issues) plus a
copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:
AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA

NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
4"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

Size	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D	No holes	Bl	\$1.75 \$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D		Bl	\$1.75 \$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D		Clr	\$1.25 \$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D		Clr	\$1.75 \$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75	4 oz./\$7.75
PETERS FERTILIZER			
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER			
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz.	\$8.50	
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz.	\$9.75	

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:
THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers, Baby Begonias, and various gesneriads list available, January 1998, \$2.00, refundable with 1st order.



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001

VIOLETS ETC.

Bonnie Schmidtkofer
813-468-9457

1011 Wood Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

African Violet Leaves
Gesneriad Cuttings

Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.

Mail Order Only

AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pots
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768



Pat's Pets

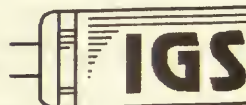
BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	4.95	17.95
10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	7.95	24.95
10 Species	7.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	7.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	7.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Columnea	7.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	7.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal

Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

GARDENING
SUPPLIES

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

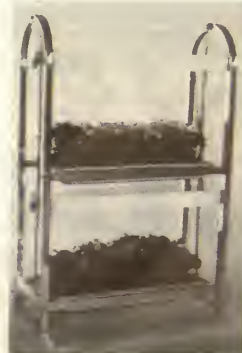
◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D





**HATTIE BAGGETT'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS**
Specializing in Large Flowering Standards

SPECIAL FALL SALE
Starter Plants \$2.50 each Plus \$7.50 Shipping
or 10% of Order, Whichever is Largest
MY CHOICE ONLY AT THIS PRICE

Shipping Ends Oct. 26, 1998
Phone (520) 822-5060
Call for Directions and Appointment

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droegge

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO!
STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCIAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS' SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors
growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

Florida Registration number: 47219602

Linda's Heavenly Accents

Honor Roll, Award Winners,
Best of New and Old Varieties
Shipping May 1 Thru November 1
Weather Permitting

Leaves Labeled - MY CHOICE Postage Paid
12-\$10, 25-\$12.50, 50-\$23.00, 100-\$40.00

Linda Smith
P. O. Box 690 USA ONLY)

(910) 895-8200
Cordova NC 28330-0690



JIM WILDMAN

133 Rosemont Drive
Syracuse, NY 13205



Standards, Minis, Trailers - express
shipping available year round for
cold climates after Oct. 1 - before
April 30th at extra charge.

CATALOG \$1.00 - Telephone - 315-492-2562
African violet leaves & supplies

SPECIALS

12 Leaves, my choice - \$15.50 postage paid
24 Leaves, my choice - \$27.00 postage paid
50 Leaves, my choice - \$52.00 postage paid

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00
Evergreen Violets
P. O. Box 49534
Blaine, MN 55449

VIOLETS STANDS

4 tier, 16 tray, new \$600, now \$350.
Two smaller stands, 4 tier, 8 tray, new \$300, now \$150
(303) 794-1400



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE
3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1998!

Available now for shipping only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
**Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show**

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

Plus 2 Spectacular New Chimeras!

ROB'S LUCKY PENNY. Very rare, one-of-a-kind variegated foliage! Sdbl. white pansies w/large, deep blue eye, over tiny, pointed fol. w/very unusual variegation - like leaves of euonymus w/very broad, irregular white margin; variegation is totally insensitive to heat; mini (\$10 - limited supply)

ROB'S THINGAMAJIG. Tremendous! A must-have, and sure to be a favorite; pink sdbls. w/prominent blue pinwheel stripes; excellent, dark var. foliage; excellent mini showplant (\$10)

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including "Rob's Sarsparilla" best new Intro at '97 AVSA

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows.

Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S MISSY. A truly lovely plant; large fringed lt. lavender w/cream throat; great grower and bloomer

BRISTOL'S MOONLIT SKY. White w/dark blue throat and lower lobes edged in white; great symmetrical foliage; profuse

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S STARDUST. Extremely unusual! Large purple-black blooms w/distinctive gold 'glitter' salted on lower lobes; must see to believe; very different.

BRISTOL'S SUZY QUE. Perhaps my favorite; never-ending masses of fully dbl. white blooms w/med. lilac-blue lower lobes edged in white held in bouquet above foliage; fantastic

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus dozens of other favorites

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

*Fall Reminds Us That It's Time,
To Order Plants While Weather's Fine.
The Signal Sends A True Alarm,
Plants Should Arrive With Undue Harm.*

Fall Special ...

*Large fully grown African Violets in many Standard and Optimara Varieties. All in 3" or 4" pots. Assorted - our choice (one of a kind sent).
5 for \$21.95 postpaid 10 for \$36.95 postpaid*

SELECT FROM RECENT INTRODUCTIONS \$3.95 Each

Bianca, Hot Spot, Luminescence, Sunrise Coral.

VIOLETS OF VALUE AT \$2.95 Each

Arapahoe, Aurora Fantasy, Blue Earth, Blue Parade, Candy Cane, Cherries 'n' Cream, Fire Mountain, Lavender Sunrise, Melodie Mia, Midnight Twist, Plum De Creme, Rapid Transit, Red Robe, Ruffled Skies, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Toreador.

BARGAIN BEAUTIES AT \$2.49 Each

Azure Blue, Ness' Bangle Blue, Billy Penn, Brandywine, Centennial Purple, Grand Duchess, Nortex's Hallmark Haven, Morning Thunder, Pink Hill, Granger's Wonderland.

OPTIMARA INDIAN SUMMER SERIES AT \$2.95 Each

Little Apache Girl, Little Comanche Girl, Little Inca Girl, Little Seneca Girl, Little Sioux Girl.

TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION MAY WE SUGGEST:

TINARI'S AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM

Properly blended growing medium the same used in our greenhouse operation,
pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart poly bag. zone 0-1-2 \$12.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag. zone 3-4-5 \$13.95 ppd.
12 Quart poly bag zone 6-7-8-9 \$14.95 ppd.

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

OPTIMARA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD - An excellent formulation of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash 14-12-14. Each box contains 15 pre-measured packets. Simply mix one pre-measured packet in one gallon of water \$2.49 per box with any order.

Send For 1998 Color Catalog \$1.00

Packing and Postal Costs:

First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone 0-1-2 . . . \$5.95 per shipment

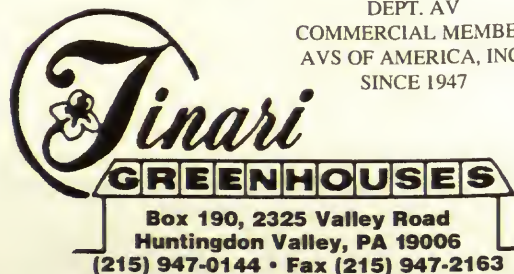
Zone 3-4-5 . . . \$6.95 per shipment

Zone 6-7-8-9 . . . \$7.95 per shipment

CA and all customers West of MS are served best via UPS 2nd DAY AIR. Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage stated for this service. **No plant shipping after November 1st.** Accessories are shipped the year round.



DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947



African Violets

QK1
.A3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 1998

Volume 51

Number 6



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 1146 Opal St. #102, Broomfield, CO 80020.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. judycart@flash.net

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

Volume 51

MISSOURI BOTANICAL
Number 6

CONTENTS

NOV 5 1998

FEATURES

GARDEN LIBRARY

No Finer Gift - Anne Tinari	11	Planting by Moon Signs	45
AVSA Toll-Free Number	13	Judging the Show Plant - Bill Foster & Mary Ann Corrigan	46
The Story of Superman - Ethel Champion	16	Temperature, Humidity, Air Circulation - Monte Watler	47
Best Articles of 1997 - Jane Rexilius	17	Fantasies and Other Color Changes - Jean Hayston	48
Letter From a Member - Nancy Corse	17	Basics - Shirley Nelson	48
Root Rot - Keith Lind	18	Watering Your Violet	49
How to "Plant" a Leaf	18	Some Thoughts on "Violet Overload" - Steve Covolo	49
Remembering Dick Maduro - David Buttram	22	Growing and Showing African Violets - Byron Borck	50
Violet Grower's "Prop Box"	24	African Violet Ornaments - Mary Walbrick	51
"Pardon Me, I Didn't Catch Your Name" - Carolyn McAllen	26	AVSA College Scholarship	51
Eye on Design: "Rhythm in Design" - Bob Green	30	Saintpaulia's Family - Joan Halford	52
Building a Plant Stand - Don Geiss	34	Tender Handling - Hal McKain	53
From Russia, With Love - Shirley Sanders	38	AV Insurance? Plant That Sucker! - Nadine Parsons	53
Holiday Gifts for Violet Growers	40	Great Gift Ideas From AVSA	57
Best Varieties For 1998 - Floyd Lawson	41		
African Violet Nutrition: Part 2 - Dave Neal	42		

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2	AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	23
Officers & Staff	2	Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	23
Seasons Greetings from Officers & Staff	3	Statement of Ownership	24
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4	Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	27
Office Update - Jenny Daugereau	5	Showcase (1)	28
Saintpaulia St. Photo - Tracie Whitley	5	Showcase (2)	32
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	6	AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	35
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	8	Showcase (3)	36
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	9	Coming Events	51
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	10	Registration Report - Iris Keating	54
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	12		
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky	14		
"And the winners are..." - Mary Corondan	19		
AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look - Alannah's African Violets - David Buttram	20		

CONVENTION

Items Needed for Convention	
Auction - Pat Richards	24
Special Awards for 'Bertha'	37
Exploring Houston, TX - 1999 AVSA Convention - Connie Leifeste	55

COVER

Deer Path
Best Semiminiature Trailer
1998 National Show
Grown and Exhibited by:
Jeani Hatfield
Hybridized by: P. Harris



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 58
AGGS 62
American Orchid Society 62
AV Enterprises Press 64
AVS of Canada 63
AVSA Address Labels 62

B

Bayou Violets 58
Belisle's Violet House 63
Bluebird Greenhouses 63

C

Cape Cod Violetry 61
Cryptanthus Society 63

D

Desert Violets 60
Dyna Gro. 63

E

Evergreen Violets 58

F

Florals of Frederick 58

H

Herbal Garden Ceramics 63
Hobby Greenhouse 63

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies . . . 60

L

Linda's Heavenly Accents . . . 58

M

Mighty Minis 60

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Pets 60

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 59

S

Shirley's House of Violets . . . 64
Sonja's AV's 62
Source Technology 60

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 62
Teas Nursery 64
Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover
Travis' Violets 57

V

Violets by Appointment 58
Violets, Etc. 58
Violet House . . . Inside Back Cover
Violet Showcase 57
Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses . . 58



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: jtcarter@worldnet.att.net

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floyddl@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



Season's Greetings

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season ...

rich in joy,

warm with lasting memories,

and full of peace.

Happy Holidays!

*Your AVSA Officers
and Staff*

Sue Meredith
Bill L.J. Jenny
Lynn Ruth
Samma Esther
Linda
J. St. JANE

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

The holiday season is almost upon us and with the cooler weather my plants have finally picked up a little. As soon as I have time, I hope to repot a few of them. Anyone who has visited my office knows that I'll never be entering one of MY plants in a show, but I do enjoy them very much.

My office is on the second floor, in the northwest corner of the AVSA office building. I have wonderful tall windows on the north and west walls and all of my plants are on the window sills, and in the handy 3-tier window shelf I ordered from our good friends at Indoor Gardening Supplies. I urge all of you to support our advertisers. There are a lot of helpful supplies, as well as more and more of the AV varieties we all want to own, *only* available through our commercial members.

There is something for everyone in this issue of the African Violet Magazine. Our "For Beginners" columnists, **Kent** and **Joyce Stork** share their "Blooming Secrets", (page 6), and **David Buttram** takes us to the Pacific northwest for a visit with **Alannah** and **Bud Regan** of Alannah's African Violets, in "AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look", (page 20).

Ethel Champion possesses the oldest African violet plant we've ever heard of. Read about her 'Superman' on page 16, "The Story of Superman". This amazing plant is 46 years old!

My good friend, **Shirley Sanders** of San Antonio, TX, tells of her friendships with Russian AV growers in her article, "From Russia, With Love", (page 38).

Those of you interested in entering a spring show, be sure to turn to page 46 for "Judging the Show Plant". Information for these illustrations was compiled by **Bill Foster** and **Mary Ann Corrigan**, then drawn for the AVM by talented artist and AVSA member, **Penny Calvert** of Waterloo, IA. **Teachers, please feel free to photocopy this page as a handout for your judging schools. Judges may also want to take this page with them when judging a show.**

If you are wondering about the perfect holiday gift for

your friends and family members who grow African violets, please have a look at the different ideas offered by AVSA. On page 40 find an assortment of items all violet growers would enjoy. Also, see the short list of great gift ideas on page 57.

For those of you getting into the holiday spirit, we'll be offering beautiful Christmas Ornaments, featuring award winning violets from the 1998 convention show. Contact the office in early December for information on these special decorations. (See related notice on page 51).

I have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. Thanks so much to all of you who submit articles for publication in the AVM. I hear from members, often, who appreciate the sharing of knowledge and ideas. Remember to let me know if you can think of a topic you'd like to see covered, or of a vintage article you think our newer members would enjoy reading. Also, a big "Thank You" to **Linda Yates**, who proofreads the AVM for us. It's good to be able to rely on someone with the knowledge, who is so enthusiastic about the work and doesn't mind the rushed pace of deadlines. Linda is a pleasure to work with.

Please turn to page 55 of this issue to read, "Exploring Houston, TX, 1999 AVSA Convention - April 4 - 11". **Connie Leifeste**, Woodway, TX, has compiled an excellent article that highlights some of the exciting points of interest in Houston for those of you who are inclined to strike out on your own and have a look around our host city. I know that all of the Texas folks are working diligently to ensure that the Houston convention will be one of the best. And, don't forget the tour that will bring you over to Beaumont and the AVSA Office.

Because of problems with color reproduction in the last issue of this magazine, a photo of 'Rob's Twinkle Blue', did not turn out well at all. I have run another photo of this darling plant in this issue (page 32), and appreciate your indulgence. (You too, Rob!)

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with love and laughter!



Office Update

by Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725
(800) 770-2872

Happy Holidays from the AVSA office in Beaumont, Texas. Many of you have spoken with me over the last 4 years, as I was your AVSA Office Secretary. I took your orders, answered membership questions, and other secretarial duties, gaining experience in the daily operation of our office. In April, at the convention in Sacramento, I was promoted to this new position, and would like to thank our Board of Directors for the faith they have in my abilities.

Tammi Gotcher, our AVSA Office Secretary, and I, are here for YOU, our members. Please feel free to contact us at any time, with any question. If we do not have an answer, we can certainly direct you to the correct person.

The convention in Sacramento was my first and it was such a thrill to meet the members I had come to know so well over the phone. I finally was able to put faces with voices and names, and feel that I have many new AVSA friends.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed so generously to the computer update for the office. The new computers are allowing us to work more efficiently, and we have many more capabilities than we did with the old system.



*Thanks to Tracie Whitley for this photo of
Saintpaulia St. in Homosassa, FL.*

Thanks so much to **John Carter** of Houston, Texas. Over the last year John has volunteered hundreds of hours in this office, assisting us with the new computer system. John makes the drive to Beaumont whenever we need him, and he's always just a phone call away. Without John, the transition to the new system could not have been accomplished so successfully. Thanks also to **Judy**, John's wife, for the sacrifices they have both made for AVSA.

The clubs listed below were not listed in the September AVM insert. Please add them to you list.

Sho-Me AVC 9300 E 90th Pl
Pres. Tricia Taylor Kansas City MO 64239

Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA 10007 Bent Tree Ln
Pres. John Wilson Manassas VA 20111-4222

Moby Dick AVC 28 Minot St
Pres. John Cook Falmouth MA 02540-2840

Casper Bloomers PO Box 2811
Pres. Lita Snell Casper WY 82602-2811

Central CA AVS 5086 Bangor Ave
Pres. Renee Wilson Kingsburg CA 93631-9430

Attention Affiliate Club Presidents:

Watch for your Affiliate Insurance Forms, which will be coming soon. Please fill out the additional information form included with this mailing, whether you take advantage of the insurance or not. This additional form is to ensure that your club's correct information is made available for our office records and the AVSA web site.

This listing on the AVSA web site will help promote your club, enabling you to recruit new members.

If you are in our area during the holiday season, please drop by for a cup of hot chocolate. We do decorate the office for the holidays and have many beautiful African violets on display. The AVSA Office is easily located in Beaumont's Old Town Historic District. Give us a call (409) 839-4725 or (800) 770-2872 for directions.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

Blooming SECRETS

Most of the general public (and maybe even you) would say that any African violet is beautiful if it is blooming. It is easy to ignore other faults so long as the flowers keep up the show! Even top African violet growers would soon tire of the hobby if it weren't for the wonderful blossoms. Flowers are the jewels. We'd do almost anything to see them more often and in more profusion.

So what are the secrets to getting more flowers and getting them more often? There are some basic growing strategies that are necessary and, a few tricks too.

BRIGHT LIGHT

The most basic underlying reason why some folks have such success getting their violets to bloom is light. No other method will work as well, and nothing else will be successful if there is not enough light.

Violets must have fairly bright light to bloom. Most good growers try to provide twelve hours of quality light a day, often under fluorescent light tubes. If violets are grown at windows they must be placed quite near. Plants that are more than one foot (twelve inches) from a window will probably not get enough light. If that window is small, or blinds are closed, it may still be too dark.

A good way to gauge the quality of light is to watch how a violet grows. If the leaf stems (petioles) become elongated so that the overall look of the plant is spidery, or if leaves are growing stubbornly upward, it is probably not getting adequate light. If leaves are growing tightly and perhaps even growing down in a pot-hugging fashion, or the green color of the leaves is bleaching to a much lighter color,

there is probably too much light. When leaves grow in neat flat rows, the light is almost certainly perfect.

A side-effect of light is heat, and heat is hard on violets and may spoil violet flowers. As the perfect brightness is found, the ideal temperatures must be maintained. Avoid windows that are most brightly lit during the hottest part of the day. If temperatures go above eighty degrees (Fahrenheit) tiny buds may be damaged. Open flowers also tend to age much more quickly in heat than in cool temperatures.

EVEN WATER

Another foundation for good blooming is even soil moisture. Violets that are too wet are vulnerable to fungus rot...they may flower for awhile in this wet stage, but ultimately they will die as the rot destroys roots first and then the main stem.

Letting violets dry out significantly between watering reduces the chance of rot, but it also deprives open flowers of the needed moisture that would allow blossoms to last for several weeks. Furthermore, tiny buds will dry off, just as they do in heat, when a violet plant becomes dehydrated.

Keeping the soil evenly moist but never soggy is ideal. This can be accomplished in several ways. One method preferred by many top growers is to use a very light soil mix (to avoid too much water absorption) in combination with a constant water method such as wicking or capillary matting.

If you prefer to water once a week, be sure that enough water is applied that water runs through the pot. Allow the plant to stand in water, but only for thirty minutes or so.

After that, drain off the excess to prevent over saturation. This advice is based on the use of plastic pots. If you prefer porous clay pots, it is necessary to water more often.

QUALITY SOIL MIX

Loose soil that prevents too much water absorption has another marvelous benefit...it gives tiny roots plenty of room to develop in the small air pockets. The more root development below, the more flowers up above!

In nature, African violet species grew with their roots in leafy mulch. Heavy soils were never natural to these delicate plants. Plants that thrive in heavy soils tend to have tap roots, whereas violets are entirely fibrous-rooted. These fine roots cease to grow and extend themselves when the soil is too dense, resulting in sickly overall growth patterns. Even mildly heavy soils may cause most of the root development to be around the outside of the root ball in the minuscule air-space between the pot and the soil.

What makes a good violet potting mix? Check with other good growers in your area, because soil supplies and the quality of water can affect your choice. A traditional mix which has worked well for growers for a number of years is the 1 - 1 - 1 mix: one part peat, one part vermiculite, and one part perlite. Many alternative soil components have been developed in recent years and some are proving to be excellent as well. Good soil should have outstanding water absorption ability and a loose texture. It should also have a fairly neutral pH.

FERTILIZER

Nutrients are very important if flowers are going to develop with greater frequency. Most researchers point to phosphorus as the key nutrient for improved blooming (it also improves root development), although nitrogen plays a key role as well. There are a number of fertilizers on the market which will have a beneficial result when used correctly. This result will be especially noticeable if no fertilizer was being used for a period of time.

Since violets are sensitive to fertilizer salts, and because they tend to grow at a steady rate, it is best to provide a mild solution of fertilizer with every watering (or constantly in a wicking or matting system). For most dry fertilizers, this solution would be one-fourth to one-eighth teaspoon per gallon of water. Liquid fertilizers may vary in concentration, so users should follow package directions closely.

Overfertilizing can provide magnificent results in flowering, but don't expect the results to last. That same over fertilizing might damage leaves and roots and ultimately may cause violets to die. We've heard stories of exhibitors who "bloom-boosted" their show plants so much that their plants ended up with huge heads of flowers but terribly burned foliage. Since these plants are long-term companions, we don't think it's wise to endanger them to such an extent, not

even for more flowers. If you suspect that you may have overfertilized, leach the soil thoroughly to avoid any further damage.

TIGHT POTS

A tried and true trick to improve flowering of African violets is to keep them in pots that are a little snug. Ideally the pot should be about one-third of the leaf diameter. Doing so will match the pot to the size of the root structure, allowing enough room for the roots to develop but not providing excess water-logged soil around the periphery of the roots.

Interestingly, flowers will tend to develop more quickly if the pot is even a bit smaller than the ideal. We have noticed that standard African violets (ones that will grow to a diameter of twelve to fifteen inches) will bloom for the first time a month or so sooner if left in three-inch pots, rather than being potted up to four inch pots too soon.

Why is this so? It may be nature's reaction to a threat. Whenever the survival of the species is in doubt, nature responds by shifting into a reproductive mode. A too-small pot may be interpreted as a lack of space for future growth. One of the reproductive methods used by nature to guarantee the survival of African violets is to bloom, and thus to set seed.

STRESS

Along those same lines, mild stress often brings on a flowering cycle in African violets. We have observed that plants that have stalled and not bloomed for many months will oftentimes begin setting buds after having their roots massaged or shaken. Squeezing the sides of a plastic pot can be enough to do it. Knocking a plant off the shelf might do it (if the plant isn't too damaged). Repotting can have a similar effect.

We've also observed that violets that are not blooming can be "forced" to bloom by giving them an uninterrupted round-the-clock exposure to bright light for several days. The flowering is a reaction both to stress and to light. This method should not be used continually however. Over-exposure to light can cause other problems, especially for foliage.

Top show growers have discovered another sort of stress that brings superb results in the number of flowers. These growers disbud their violets, removing all forming buds before they become open flowers. When this is done over a period of months, an African violet becomes extremely anxious to come into full bloom. One can imagine little personalities inside the plants panicking that they'll never be allowed to flower and they'll most certainly die because of this rude treatment. When this is well-timed, a good grower can estimate accurately when disbudding should stop so that the maximum number of open flowers will be present for competition in a show.

Is this the perfect way to grow violets? It is a great way to demonstrate a violet's ability to bloom (and to win a show), but it isn't a perfect situation for the plant. The stress may cause other changes in growth that aren't as desirable in the long run.

TALKING?

We don't think talking makes much difference. One phrase might help however: "Bloom or you are going into the trash!" If you want to keep your violet collection in bloom, eliminate anything that doesn't cooperate. Your

friends will never know that you had some violets that just never performed. If this sounds hard-hearted, remember that there are some varieties that are reluctant bloomers, especially in certain climates. It is better to avoid the frustration of growing those difficult plants so that you may enjoy the violets that are more cooperative for you.

THE SECRET IS OUT OF THE BAG

Now you know the secret of getting your violets to bloom. Grow them very well and then when they least expect it, do something stressful. What a hobby!



Affiliate Update

by Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Committee
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
<clubs@avsa.org>

A current list of affiliates was published in the last (September) issue of the African Violet magazine. Those affiliates have chosen to join and work with AVSA to provide a convenient association for those interested in African violets and to stimulate interest and education in propagation and culture of African violets. If this is your first issue as a new member of AVSA and you would like to find out if there is an affiliate near you, you can check out the AVSA web site at AVSA.org/affiliates or you can write or e-mail me.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest affiliates:

East Tennessee African Violet Society
President - Mary Ann Lang
1512 Scottsdale Drive
Knoxville, TN 37840

Heart of Florida
President - Russell L. Martin
12741 Lower River Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828

Merriam Park Bloomers
President - Jane Donaho
1533 Grantham Street
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Palmetto African Violet Society
President - Trudi Christensen
200 Lands End Blvd, Apt 1015
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

If you have not found an affiliate in your area, maybe you would like to be a part of one of the following groups that are in the process of getting organized.

Flint, MI and surrounding area
Contact: Wilson Cronk
201 North Elms Road
Flushing, MI 48433-1829
810-487-1112 or
E-mail <cronk@tir.com>

Westport, SD
Contact: Nan Whatley
38648 123rd Street
Westport, SD 57481
605-225-0486

Coastal Mississippi
Pat Shambra
7887 Hilo Way
Diamondhead, MI 39525
228-255-2855

Naperville/Downers Grove, IL
Contact: Dixie Williams
3211 White Eagle Drive
Naperville, IL 60564
630-904-1698 or
E-mail <dixw@aol.com>
or
Andrea Worrell
619 Franklin Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-515-1151

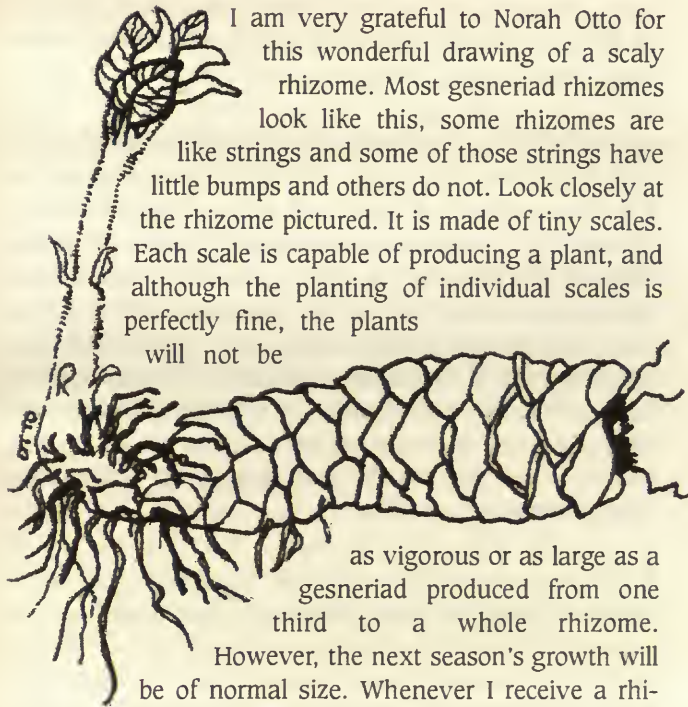
If you are in the process of organizing a club and would like to have your meeting and contact information printed in the next listing (March), please send me the information.

Still haven't found a group near you? I have had several people contact me because they are interested in a club in their area. Maybe there is someone else in your area and we can introduce you to each other. If there is not another contact in your area, there is need for a club and maybe you are just the one to start it. Please request the packet of material that is available to you to start a new club or study group. The packet is a basic guide to help you gather interested growers together, find a meeting place, select the time and day and other information to get you started. You can request this packet by writing or e-mailing me at the addresses listed at the beginning of this column.

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net



I am very grateful to Norah Otto for this wonderful drawing of a scaly rhizome. Most gesneriad rhizomes look like this, some rhizomes are like strings and some of those strings have little bumps and others do not. Look closely at the rhizome pictured. It is made of tiny scales. Each scale is capable of producing a plant, and although the planting of individual scales is perfectly fine, the plants will not be

as vigorous or as large as a gesneriad produced from one third to a whole rhizome.

However, the next season's growth will be of normal size. Whenever I receive a rhizome, I break it into halves or thirds. I do this just in case a piece begins to rot, and I don't want to lose the entire rhizome.

Gesneriads which produce rhizomes include: *Achimenes*, *Eucodonia*, *Smithiantha*, *Gloxinia*, *Diastema*, *Niphaea*, *Pearcea*, *Phinaea*, and *Kohleria*.

Rhizomes begin to sprout anywhere from February to April. I plant them 1/2" to 1" deep in a hard-packed, light soil mix. Packing it hard helps support the stems. I plant one rhizome per inch of pot size. Therefore, I put 4 rhizomes in a 4" pot. The first two months of sprouting are critical. The plant must NEVER dry out or it will go dormant or die. From the above mentioned gesneriad list, I pinch *Achimenes* and gloxinias to make them bushy and compact. I wait until the plant has 4 leaf nodes, then take the tip growth, which is the top 2 leaf nodes, and put it

back into the pot. It will root easily and the remaining stems will produce one or two branches. I pinch the plants at least twice.

Rhizomatous gesneriads usually require bright light to prevent leggy plants. I grow mine on a plant stand with a double set of shop lights. In addition, they need a consistent feeding of 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water. I've never given bloom-boosting fertilizer. I did notice that when I cut off the main flower stem of a *Smithiantha* before it had a chance to bloom, the plant suddenly produced 12 blossom shoots on the other branches!

It is perfectly acceptable to stake any gesneriad for show, just make sure it's reasonably inconspicuous. Rhizomatous plants are difficult to transport to a show because they are so top heavy with blossoms that staking is almost mandatory.

Most rhizomatous plants go dormant for about 4 to 5 months. I wait until the tops look scraggly then cut off all the plant material above the soil. Now I have 2 options for storage. I can put the whole pot in a baggie until I see sprouting in the spring, or I can dig out all the rhizomes in the soil. My preference is to go digging! I gather all the rhizomes and place them in a sealed plastic bag with a barely moist 50/50 mix of perlite and vermiculite. If the mix is bone dry, I might lose the rhizomes.

Don't be surprised to see rhizomes forming above the soil line in leaf axils. That is fairly common and those rhizomes are perfectly fine for planting.

Many rhizomatous gesneriads are excellent material for entering in Foliage Only classes. Many are fuzzy with red-backed leaves. Because most of us participate in spring shows, the rhizomatous gesneriads are no where near ready to enter.

I recommend that those of you who grow rhizomatous gesneriads bring them to your club and distribute them in a "potting party" in February or March.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

For those who show violets, the leaves or foliage are a very important character to consider. Plants with great flowers but poor foliage will never make good show plants. The list given below may help new hybridizers in planning the genetic inheritance of this important show trait.

Dominant Trait

Girl Foliage
Ruffled Foliage
Holly Foliage
Plain Foliage
Bustled Foliage
Longifolia Shape
Red Backing

Recessive Trait

Plain or Boy Foliage
Plain Foliage
Plain Foliage
Spoon Foliage
Plain Foliage
Ovate Shape
Green or Silver Backing

Q: *Since girl foliage is a genetic dominant, would I get more girl foliage offspring by crossing two girl foliage parents together than crossing a girl foliage plant with a boy foliage plant?*

A: Yes, a cross of two girl foliage plants should give about 75% girl foliage offspring whereas a cross of girl foliage with boy foliage should only give around 50% girl foliage offspring. However, the first cross would also give plants that are double dominant (homozygous) for girl foliage. These plants will usually have very unmanageable foliage and will be unlikely to have any show potential. Therefore, the best show plants will be those with only a single dose of girl foliage trait which will be about 50% of the offspring in either cross.

Q: *Can girl foliage be combined with variegated foliage or trailing growth habit?*

A: Yes, hybridizers have developed girl foliage in both variegated plants and trailers. Check with the Master Variety List for the names of these cultivars.

Q: *What traits should I look for in the foliage when hybridizing for show plants?*

A: I'm glad you are considering the foliage in planning your cross. Since show plants with girl, ruffled or holly foliage are difficult to grow to perfection, you might avoid these traits and stay with parents who show plain foliage. Since the foliage of a show plant should overlap and produce rows without gaps, stay away from parents with longifolia foliage. Choose parents that have leaves that are wider than long, especially in the middle of the leaf. This should give a high probability of offspring with overlapping leaves without gaps. If the foliage of both parents has good show potential, then they should produce offspring with similar good potential.

Q: *Is it more important to consider the foliage of the seed parent or the pollen parent when making a cross?*

A: Except for some types of leaf variegation, the inheritance of the leaf characteristics appears to be controlled equally by both parents. If the foliage of both the seed and pollen parent are good, then the offspring should have the potential for good foliage too. The "horse-breeding" attitude of "breeding the best with the best, then hoping for the best" works well in this situation.

Q: *Is there any visible difference in plants that carry two dosages of the red-backed leaf factor when compared to those with only a single dose?*

A: In some cases, there may be a more intense coloration of the red backing in the plants with the double dose (homozygous dominant) when compared to those with a single dose (heterozygous). However, the intensity of the

(In Search of New Violets continued on bottom of page 11)

NO FINER GIFT

(An African violet membership subscription)

Dear AVSA Members,

It is a great concern to me that our society seems to be dwindling in size and this is certainly puzzling. African violets continue to grow in popularity at an amazing rate, sales of violets by large commercial growers continue steadily upward. Perhaps we are not meeting the challenge of our society as we once did. Times and circumstances have changed and former methods of increasing our membership are no longer effective. Thus we anxiously look forward to our Web site and Internet to give us much needed public exposure. Here at our greenhouses we find there is a great need in our immediate area for violets used as centerpieces. Violets in decorated baskets, pottery and glass arranged in an artistic manner are a big part of our sales. Artistically trimmed violets for weddings, parties, and special occasions are in vogue.

Membership is everyone's business; let us pause for a minute and reflect on what we have gained in a society such as ours. Knowledge and experience that will enrich your life, experiments we have indulged in, enabling us to find better and more efficient ways of propagating, scientific research, growing and pest controls to produce more floriferous plants. There has been friendly competition, in which we have all participated and precious friendships made with individuals we have met through growing African violets. I continue to urge all African violet clubs and affiliates who participate in fall and spring shows, to have available AVSA subscription blanks for public distribution. This is a great opportunity to promote our society to a captive audience. Also I wish to remind our members, who lecture or conduct demonstrations, to have these subscription blanks available. I find customers at the greenhouses are very receptive to these, and we also include them in every order.

We recognize that African violets are versatile; they have



*Membership
Makes a
Great Gift!*

no language barrier. Let us emulate a single African violet blossom; fashioned on its own pedicel it blooms but briefly, then it must expire. Still in its short span of life, embraced in harmony with other blossoms its exquisite beauty can bring a smile to the saddest face, joy to a child, hope to the depressed, faith to the sick, comfort to the burdened, glory to God's altar and nourishment to the soul. As we reflect these thoughts may it be an accolade to a life well spent. Our African violets are a challenge and inspiration for a better life.

In anticipation of the holiday season may I suggest you consider gift memberships to AVSA for your many friends and relatives. An *African Violet* subscription is an appropriate, thoughtful gift that will last a year. This is the season to bring joy into the lives of those we love. There is no easier way to Christmas shop than to send in a gift subscription of our interesting magazine that features six colorful issues containing excellent articles on growing, columnists that bring us vivid knowledge of timely topics, and advertisers that bring us the latest cultivars and violet accessories that are difficult to locate elsewhere. Send a gift subscription to our office today. Help us fulfill our mission statement, "To stimulate a widespread interest in the propagation and culture of African violets everywhere." Let your holiday gift be one that shall be remembered long after the Christmas decorations are stored for another year. Help boost our membership into the 21st century; we need the constant support of every member for continued success.

ANNE TINARI, MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTION CHAIRMAN



(In Search of New Violets continued from page 10)

coloration is also influenced by the environment and growing conditions. Plants grown in high light or strong fertilizers often develop more intense red-backing coloration than the same cultivars grown under different conditions. Using the intensity of the coloration may give you a clue as to the plant's genetic makeup or genotype (homozygous or heterozygous), but the outcome of a cross of this plant with a homozygous recessive (green or silver-backed leaf) will be needed to verify the genotype. If the cross gives 100% red-

backed offspring, then the red-backed parent was homozygous. If a mixture of green and red-backed offspring are produced (about 50% of each type), then the parent was heterozygous. This information could be added to your data on the parent for helping to plan future crosses.

If you want the foliage of the offspring to be as "dark" as possible, plan crosses to produce homozygous red-backed plants. The intense red backing will darken the overall color of the foliage to either compliment or contrast with the flower color.

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

READERS WRITE

Today's reader is Norah Otto from Nederland, Colorado. She offers a lot of interesting information both on African violet cultivars and on "growing psychology." First, Norah writes her favorite small ones are 'Precious Pink', 'Wee Be' and 'Spring Peach', which are all renowned Pittman hybrids. She also likes 'Ness' Mini Sota', 'Irish Flirt' and 'Cupid's Kiss'. She says, "Since I grow the small ones only for show, I have high standards (not to be confused with good growing practices) . . ." While several of these selections are widely grown, there is one, however, I'd like to discuss. 'Ness' Mini Sota' is a chimera with perfectly forming medium green foliage that overlaps beautifully and stays in size, and sports white blooms and a rosy fuschia stripe in the middle of each petal. Personally, I don't think enough good things can be said about it. It grows well in many areas of the country and as it is an older cultivar, I hope it continues to be propagated and grown by many individuals.

Norah adds an older cultivar to her list which she grows for fun. It is 'Pink Fly', which she claims shapes up surprisingly well. 'Pink Fly' is a delightful, very different violet that is successfully grown in different regions of the country. (Ardath Miller of St. Louis also does very well with this cultivar). It was hybridized by the renowned Jimmy Dates, and has bright, medium pink wasp blooms with intriguing dark, hirsute (very hairy) leaves. It also deserves wide recognition! Switching from the old to the new, Norah has also acquired a new cultivar from Lyons Greenhouses of which she approves. According to Norah, "'Little Polar Bear' is like a small version of 'Satin n' Lace' but more floriferous and easier to grow." I don't know how many of you grew 'Satin n' Lace', but it was always a favorite chimera of mine. To have something similar available as a small one is very exciting indeed!

Finally, regarding psychology, Norah concluded her letter by saying the more time she has spent with her plant collec-

tion, the better they look. Her hectic lifestyle "was interfering with their nurturing." I talked with several very good growers at convention in Sacramento who stated they did not have enough time to work with their violets, hence they had no, or less than great, entries in the convention show. I cannot emphasize enough, if you want to do well with your violets, you must give them time. Fertilizer, water and light are simply not enough. Violets are very much like children. They'll grow no matter what, but they thrive and flourish when given utmost attention!

CULTIVARS TO LOOK FORWARD TO . . .

I had the distinct pleasure of traveling to Denver, Colorado this spring to speak to the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council. I don't grow many violets for sale, and was asked to bring some to share with members. Dr. Ralph (Rob) Robinson was good enough to provide me with some of his hybrids, one of which was 'Rob's Gizmo', a simple plant with dark green, pointed leaves, and lovely star-shaped, glittery pink blooms. Please understand, these plants had been shipped from New York state, then traveled by van from Kansas City to Denver and back again (more than 20 total hours of driving). By the time I returned to Kansas City, the blooms on all plants had deteriorated except one: 'Rob's Gizmo'. The blooms were as fresh and as beautiful as the day I left. So for substance, for long-lasting blooms, and for show try growing this stalwart new cultivar!

Another hybridizer's plants are coming into their own: Rahim Wilson's Orchard series. These are extremely good forming, heavy blooming varieties that hold their size very well. The most widely grown introduction is, 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', a miniature with light pink double blooms held in masses above medium green pointed foliage. Don't underestimate this simplistic description because this plant is fantastic! At the St. Louis Metropolitan African Violet Council

show this spring, the top award-winning miniatures were of this cultivar, and the judges had a terrible time trying to select the best one! 'Orchard's Night Light' has very dark green foliage with striking blush/white star blooms. It is a semi-miniature and is new to my collection, but so far it looks to be a winner! Yet a third is 'Orchard's Purple Haze'. This plant's two-tone lavender/purple/white double blooms are as large as they are outstanding! The leaves are medium green and look as though they might have a tendency to grow a little large. Also, the blooms are not as abundant as on the previous two described, but if you like a beautiful bloom, this one's for you!

YOU SAY "TO-MAH-TO", I SAY "TO-MAY-TO"

Dr. Jeff Smith's article ("Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets," 51 African Violet Magazine, 2, March/April 1998, p. 26) on foliar feeding is somewhat controversial. It reminds me of the great perlite debate: should a layer of perlite be placed in the bottom of pots? Also, of the great Gro-Lux debate: do plants really bloom better with Gro-Lux versus cool-white bulbs? And then there's the great dark shelf versus light shelf debate, the Superthrive debate, and let's not forget the great moon sign debate! Wicking versus matting, urea versus ammoniacal nitrogen, 10 versus 12 hours, the list goes on and on . . .

Dr. Smith's research has led us to question a practice that is sworn by many outstanding growers as a key factor to their growing success*, which returns to the question regarding the "psychology" of growing: how many of our practices do our plants little good, but serve to boost our psyche and morale instead? Simply put, because we want to believe our plants are growing better we think they are growing better. We must leave the answers to the realm of science, which is unfortunate because of the nature of scientific study. Controls, proof, experimentation, valid conclusions versus skepticism sometimes result in even greater confusion, which leads to the same conclusion with which I ended my September column. We are our own judge and jury. We are the triers of fact. Our growing environments are our courtrooms, our results our evidence. Simply put: do what works best for you!

NEXT TIME

Our January issue will be general culture tips for growing the small ones. I know perennial AVSA growers have heard

this information time and time again, but it needs to be repeated for the benefit of our newer members. I'd also like to ask members to write me concerning their summer care of violets. It seems many of us have trouble keeping our violets in top form during the summer months, so what are your recommendations for getting your violets through the summer? Take care!

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets, Controversy or Serendipity," part 1, Emory E. Leland, 29 AVM 2, March 1976, p. 46. (Provides a brief historical perspective on foliar feeding of plants in general, discusses uses of foliar feeding, fertilizer firms recommendations, and African violet grower's recommendations.)

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets, Controversy or Serendipity," part 2, Emory E. Leland, 29 AVM 3, June 1976, p. 41. (A review of foliar feeding of African violets, guidelines, and bibliography.)

"Foliar Feeding of African Violets," Marie Burns, 39 AVM 3, May 1986, p. 35. "The Best in Show Experience," Marie Burns, 40 AVM 4, July/August 1987, p. 52, at 54.

"On Foliar Feeding," Irene Fredette, 42 AVM 6, November/December 1989, p. 49.

"Big and Beautiful: How to Grow HUGE African Violets," Beginners Column, Kent and Joyce Stork, 49 AVM 6, January/February 1996, p. 6, at 7.

"Foliar Feeding," in *Growing to Show*, Pauline Bartholomew, AV Enterprises Press, Oxnard, California, 1996, p. 52 ("Except as a growth and blossom booster before show, African violets do not need a steady diet of foliar feeding. The extra nutrients create an excess that can cause leaf and crown burn, tight centers, and loss of variegation.")

"Thinking Small," guest columnist Darryl Hoover, 50 AVM 2, March/April 1997, p. 14, at 15.

"Growing for the Gold," Rita Hilton, 51 AVM 1, January/February 1998, p. 32. (note: "Foliar feeding is not for me because once you start doing it, you have to keep it up, or have smaller leaves that tell exactly when the plants quit getting their extra feedings." p. 33)

"Growing Large Show Plants," Marie Burns, 51 AVM 3, May/June 1998, p. 53, at 54.

1-800-770-AVSA

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

As a personal note, almost all of us have had a period of time when our violets, because of circumstances beyond our control, were sadly neglected. Recovering our interest in the face of an overwhelming task can be too much for some fanciers and probably contributes to the loss of some of our members. Giving a hand to someone who has suffered a loss of the time they were able to lavish on violets can be a blessing - even if it's only moral support by way of the phone. Luckily, I have a large circle of fellow growers to talk with, keeping my interest level high. While I was doing very well after surgery, a fall caused a different situation, causing back twinges when working on the violets for even a few minutes. I bring this up in an effort to assist anyone who feels that regrouping with a large collection of violets is impossible. If a great deal of time has passed since a working routine was in place, you might try what I'm doing at this point. Take one stand at a time, repot as many plants each day as plausible, clean the trays, and start a regular routine on the one stand. Then take on the next stand (as feasible) and then the next, etc., and even the greenhouse (if you happen to have one) if you and the plants are renewing your camaraderie. Face the facts of life that: you can't do it all at once. The primary thing is keeping a positive outlook that it will all be done in time. Life goes on and with a little watering from your helper the plants will survive (they may not look too well, but they will survive).

QUESTION: I gave a few violets to someone who already had a few and when I asked about the fertilizer she was using, she informed me she never used any fertilizer, she just dumped her coffee grounds on her plants. She felt this promoted continuous bloom, and protected against insects and disease. Have you ever heard of this method?

ANSWER: Many years ago a lot of growers saved both coffee grounds and tea leaves to put around their plants. I was never aware that it was considered a fertilizer but rather a mulch and an acidifier. Since all of my early growing experience (when I saw this type of practice) was in southern California where most of us have alkaline soils and water, it would make sense to employ an acid product to try to com-



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

bat the damage of an over alkaline soil. Since the writer is from the East Coast, I'm assuming this was a general practice among many growers. I have no idea where the use of tea leaves and coffee grounds originated. The fact that it was an organic substance which people did not care to waste may have prompted them to use it as a mulch. You can use both coffee and tea in a compost heap if you have one. Another often used fertilizer was manure tea, where you steeped a bag of manure in a 30 gallon drum filled with water (rain water if possible). Since I have never used these methods at any time, these tips would certainly be in question. The growers who hold manure tea in very high esteem (some have incredible results on tropical plants grown outside) tell you it is ready to use when it becomes a given color. These seem to be very hit and miss instructions in my book, however there is no question about the smell! In a time when the availability of over-the-counter preparations were very limited, people improvised in order to produce the best plant they could with a lot of trial and error and homemade brews. Our selection of products for growing is vast and we can make informed decisions as to what will work within the growing area in our homes.

QUESTION: The crown of one of my miniatures has suddenly begun sprouting suckers, ALL OVER IT! The rest of the plant looks just fine. I've cut these things off and they come right back. It looks like a Christmas tree on top and the rest looks like a nice, healthy African violet. What's going on! I did move it away from my other plants as soon as it started this odd behavior.

ANSWER: There are a number of miniatures that have strong tendencies to sucker and it is necessary to remove the suckers as soon as you can see one in a leaf axil. I use a double pointed sock knitting needle because of its smooth ends. They are available wherever knitting supplies or crafts are sold. They come in a packet of four, so a few of you could share packages of several different sizes. When dealing with a very small plant the smaller size allows you to work with ease and get into the small areas. Where the plant has already produced many suckers it is probably out of shape;

repotting will get you back to the center portion which will grow into a nicely symmetrical plant if you keep ALL suckers removed.

QUESTION: *Just how clean do my pots have to be when I plant another violet in a recycled pot? How do you clean yours?*

ANSWER: Your pots must be free of any insect eggs, virus or contaminants of any sort. (In other words VERY CLEAN). When re-using a pot I soak it in a solution of warm soap and Clorox water for at least 20 minutes. The pots are then rinsed thoroughly and allowed to air dry overnight. At one time, when plastic pots were not available, it was necessary to use clay pots which absorb water and other materials. It was necessary to soak first in Clorox then in a solution of soap which required many rinses.

QUESTION: *How can I make my foliage appear more shiny?*

ANSWER: Shiny foliage is the result of good consistent care. The leaves must be kept clean and free of dust and debris. The shine is actually related to the shine of clean healthy hair; if it isn't in good condition nothing will make it shine. The plant must have been given proper light, air circulation, humidity, water, fertilizer, turned regularly, had adequate room and not have leaf damage from frequent jostling.

QUESTION: *I put down a leaf and it never produced babies, and has grown to a huge size. Why? What did I do wrong?*

ANSWER: It would be hard to say whether you did anything wrong, as I suspect almost everyone has had the experience of having no babies from a leaf, especially if you obtained the leaf away from home and were unable to put it down immediately. It may have come from an outer row on the plant, or it might have just been damaged in some way

while still on the plant. If your leaves are well rooted you can remove the top 1/3 to prevent the mother leaf from growing and insure the energy is channeled to producing babies. Many growers do this as soon as they know a good root system is established which prevents the leaf from growing as much.

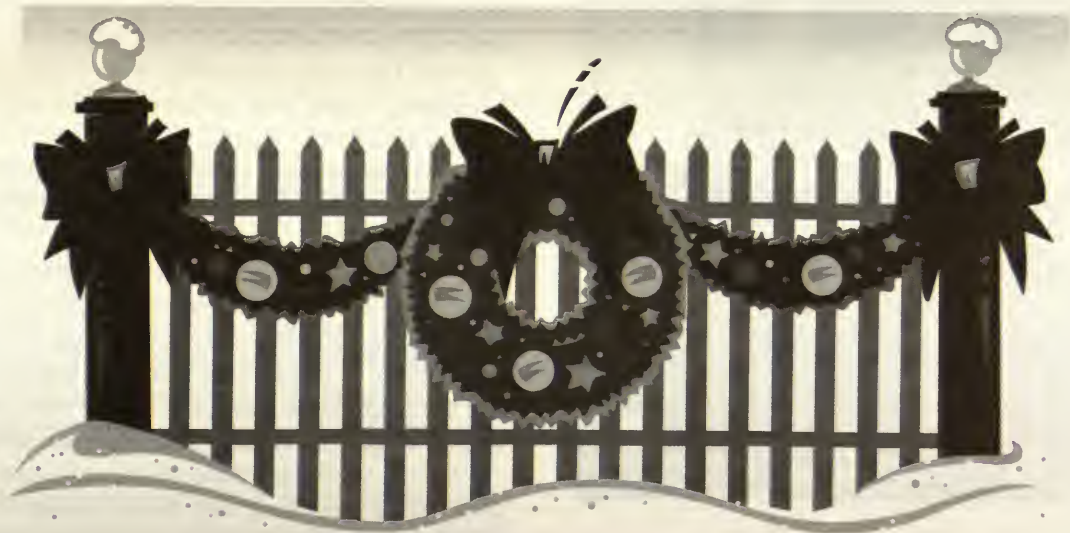
QUESTION: *How can I make it easier to remove my plants when it's time to repot? Should the roots be "tickled" to loosen and remove old potting medium or is it best to disturb them as little as possible?*

ANSWER: When you repot be sure the plant is neither too wet or overly dry. If you squeeze the lower part of the pot in several places the root ball should come out easily, if not you can use the eraser end of a pencil to poke the root ball out. Recently there was a comment that most roots do not need to be loosened and when mold potting* I only remove my perlite layer. When repotting plants which have been shown or are due for attention it is always necessary to remove a portion of the root system as well as the bottom of the central stalk, which more than loosens the roots. *(mold potting - where you fill the next size larger pot with soil using a pot of the same size in which the plant is presently potted, as a mold - fill around the pot and after removing the pot, drop and the plant into the depression).

QUESTION: *One of the leaves I put down in an effort to produce babies has grown and now has somehow produced a flower stem with buds. Should I remove the stem or just let nature take its course?*

ANSWER: You say the leaf has grown, but you don't say whether you also have babies. If you are trying to propagate and have babies coming I'd remove the flower stalk. If you wish to have a conversation piece leave it as is.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.



THE STORY OF SUPERMAN

by Ethel Champion • Clay, NY

No, not about *that* Superman, the one who wore a cape and made marvelous rescues, but it is about his namesake, an African violet which is also unusual. In the beginning its claim to fame was the fact that it was a large vigorous plant that produced several dozen flowers on each stem. Now, its age is important. 'Superman', at the age of 46 years, has lived much longer than we thought possible.

'Superman' was the result of my first successful cross made some time in 1951. The pollen parent was 'Double Duchess', a double purple and, I believe one of or the first, double African violet. The seed parent was a single blue, probably a sport of 'Blue Boy'. That is a guess but it was similar to 'Blue Boy' except that it was larger and produced many, many more flowers. I was given leaves of this plant which was a sight to behold because of the size of the plant, which was probably multicrowned, and the amount of flowers per stem. I grew plants from my leaves and used one to bear the seeds for the cross.



1954



1997

Seeds were planted in January, 1952, and they grew. I didn't keep records in those days and you are wondering how I remember so exactly. The truth is that I was expecting a Champion baby any day, entered the hospital and Kelly was born on Valentine's Day, 1952. My Mom came to help at the house and I remember asking her to be sure the just-up seedlings did not dry out. Thank heavens that she was a green-thumber, too.

From that cross, 'Superman' was chosen and eventually named for their hero, by the older Champion children. It was a double purple, a large, vigorous plant, but the remarkable part was the amount of flowers per stem, just like the seed parent. Often it produced 30 or more small, one-inch flowers per stem.

At that time, I hoped that this feature would increase the amount of flowers in successive crosses and I would rock the violet world with marvelous things. But it was not meant to be. In crosses that followed I found that if a plant had the large flower count the flowers were always small; large average flowers had a regular flower count.

At first, years ago, 'Superman' was shown and featured here and there but then later, it was relegated to the back of the shelf and like the other 'Superman', suffered some

indignities. Perhaps, because it was my first seedling, I always wanted to keep it, but it was not given good care, had an occasional bud and wilted down several times. Then I knew it had lost its roots and so I invented my version of intensive care. The crown was removed from the pot, cleaned to good flesh and potted in slightly damp, pure vermiculite. Pot and all were placed in a sealed plastic bag. When new growth started in a few weeks it was slowly withdrawn from the greenhouse bag over a period of about two weeks. After it was hardened to regular greenhouse culture it was then repotted in regular soil and grown on.

Now, 'Superman' gets the best of everything; the center light, careful watering and repotting just before needed. Although plants grown from leaves have the original stamina, 'Superman' is no longer as vigorous, as large or as floriferous as it used to be. It is in good health and just to prove it, was entered in our last Syracuse show and won a blue ribbon.

The story of 'Superman' suggests that with just reasonable care and a very large amount of luck a favorite violet can live a very long life. Who knows how long we can keep it growing?



Best Articles of 1997 - Certificates of Appreciation

Jane Rexilius,
Publications Committee Chairman

Each year the AVSA Board of Directors and members of the Publications Committee select the five best articles published the previous year in the African Violet Magazine. These winners are presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the annual AVSA convention, as well as a one year membership to our society for a non-member.

Authors of our Best Articles of 1997, honored at the 1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA are:

Pat Richards - Kansas

"The Tale of a Plant Who Thought He Could"

Judith Carter - Texas

"Where Did Those Babies Come From?"

Ruth Coulson - NSW, Australia

"Disbudding - What's It All About?"

Dr. Charles Cole - Texas

"What's Happened to My Plants?"

John Beaulieu - Ontario, Canada

"Happy Trails to You"

Congratulations to each of you!

Letter From a Member:

Dear David Buttram and AVM,

The article on pages 20 - 23, in the Sept/Oct 1998 issue, "A Closer Look - A Review", I call "remembering". It was so wonderful that it brought tears to my eyes and a smile to my face. The legacies of all those wonderful hybridizers and growers are the jewels of our hearts, our African violets. The dedication of all these talented people, living and passed on, have given those of us today the challenge to carry on and continue to grow these beauties.

As a relatively new member (6 years) I know I speak for all violet lovers everywhere - Thank you, David.

Thanks for stimulating our dedication to the culture and sharing of ideas and information. One way we can show our appreciation to the hybridizers and growers is by continuing the propagation of their "oldies" and the new ones, our favorites of tomorrow.

Thank you again for the wonderful article, David and the AVM. I'll be waiting for the next one!

In appreciation,
Nancy R. Corse
AVS of Springfield, PA

Root Rot

by Keith Lind • Australia

Root rot is a common problem with African violets. Like many other pests and diseases the effects are not evident until the plant is almost beyond redemption. The first sign of trouble is the drooping of some of the large outer leaves. At first glance it would appear that the plant could be wilting for want of water. However a tug on one of the drooping leaves will reveal the true cause. The leaf will detach from the trunk of the plant and it will be seen that the leaf stem or petiole has rotted away where the petiole joins the trunk or main stem.

A quick check of the rest of the leaves that are drooping will reveal the same symptoms. Then, if the remainder of the plant is rocked from side to side or twisted slightly it will virtually fall out of the potting mix. The trunk will be rotted to just below the crown to which only a few healthy leaves will still be attached. If the rotting portion of the trunk is examined through a magnifying glass tiny larvae of fungus gnats, small transparent worms about 5 - 6mm long, and springtails may be seen working among the decaying matter.

Occasionally, if root rot is detected soon enough the crown may be cleaned and planted similarly to a side shoot (sucker). The rotting tissue should be completely cut away and the exposed end dusted with a fungicide. Success in saving the plant is not always assured and I have personally had only limited success. If the plant is worthy of saving I prefer to take one or several of the inner undamaged leaves and cut the petioles quite short before planting. The reason for cutting the petioles short is to ensure that the infection which destroyed the trunk has not crept up along the petiole.

Root rot is caused by poor cultural practices such as overwatering and the use of unsuitable potting mix, or a combination of both.

Plants should not be allowed to stand in water. This often happens when plants are placed on a saucer and watered from the top. When this method of watering is practiced only sufficient water should be applied so that it just trickles out the drainage holes into the saucer. Any water collected in the saucer should be disposed of. An irregular supply of water, that is, allowing the plant to dry out completely for a period, then flooding it with water, is a sure way to encourage root rot.

A reliable system of watering such as the wick watering system used in conjunction with a good light potting mix should ensure root rot is kept to a minimum.

Reprinted with permission from *"The African Violet"*, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.

**"What do I do with this leaf
when I get home?"**

HOW TO "PLANT" A LEAF

- 1) Recut the stem, diagonally, 1/2" to 1" from the bottom of the leaf (front side) with a sharp knife or razor blade. Plantlets develop from the cut end of the petiole (stem).
- 2) Place the entire leaf in tepid water 2 hours before potting.
- 3) Label a small 2-3" diameter pot with the plant name and date. Small plastic drinking cups with holes punched in the bottom work well.
- 4) Fill the pot with damp soil mix; a mixture of 1/2 peat and 1/2 perlite and/or vermiculite is ideal. You may use any commercial potting mix for African violets. Pack it down firmly, and water with fertilizer solution (1/4 tsp. fertilizer to 1 gallon of water).
- 5) Poke a 1/4" hole in moistened soil. Insert the stem into the soil so that the mix is almost up to the bottom of the leaf and firm the soil around the stem.
- 6) Place potted leaf in a ziplock bag or plastic shoe box with lid; keep humidity high.
- 7) Place under lights or in a window, but don't put in direct sunlight - they will cook!!
- 8) Water using regular fertilizer solution. Do not allow the soil to dry out. Keep moist at all times.
- 9) Leaves may be started directly in zip-lock bags in a small amount of potting soil. The soil should be moist but not wet. These leaves may be left in the bags for a few weeks, but should be put into a small 2" or 2 1/2" pot before the plantlets get crowded.
- 10) If several small plantlets emerge [some leaves will produce from 5 to 15 plantlets], remove the weaker ones and leave two or three on the "mother" leaf until they have four nickel-size leaves. They should then be gently pulled apart and placed in their own 2" pots.
- 11) Plantlets will start to appear in about 6 weeks; some varieties take longer.
- 12) If the "mother" leaf continues to grow, cut the top of the leaf off so the leaf energy goes to the plantlets.

Reprinted from *"The Bloomin Violet"*, publication of the Cedar Valley Violet Club

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVS of Greater Montreal, Quebec, CAN - Winners:

Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Wisconsin, Optimara Michelangelo, Victorian Ribbons; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Jupiter's Joy; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Trailer: Spunky Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Irene Henry**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mellow Fellow, Youth, Christine Dianne; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dangerous, Von's Small Gift, Irish Flirt; Best Design, **Greta Durand**. Best species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Francine Pilon**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Ulysses', **Denyse Chevrefils**. Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Santopietro**.

AVS of Greater NY, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Sunrise, Optimara Barbados, Heavenly Notes; Best in Show/Best Standard: Heavenly Notes; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Rose Ghossn**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Match Point, Rob's Scooter; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Design, **Joseph Svitak**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Helen Szymko**.

Gulf African Violet Club, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, Taffeta Petticoats, Granger's Wonderland; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Ruff Stuff, Audrey Buchanan; Best in Show/Best Standard: Snow Squall; Best Semiminiature: Audrey Buchanan; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinick**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lillian Scott**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet', **Eleanor Duerr**.

Hoosier African Violet Society, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pueblo, Ms. Pretty, Lyon's Northern Star; Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Silver Spook; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tomorrow's Starlight; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Cherry Blossom Trail, **Steve**

Covolo. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Mini Papa, Teen Sweetheart; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Winter Mint'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Mikita**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Jean Willey**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Andrea Worrell**. Best Design, **Lois Matusak**.

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto, Ontario, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Jean-Pierre Croteau, Party Print; Best in Show/Best Standard: Party Print; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Maiden, Blushing Ivory, Picasso, **Bruce Curcuruto**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Irish Flirt, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia kautskyi x hirsuta*, **Betty Tapping**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Shirley, Mini Papa, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet, **Tony Hulleman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

Mid Polk AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Bud's Melanie, Apache Gem, **Rita Hilton**. 2nd Best AVSA Collection: Picasso, Optimara Stockholm, Powwow, **Lucille Griffin**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Wee Dear; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boo Hoo; Best Design, **Jean Marie Ross**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Betty Lombardi**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rita Hilton and Audrey Sears**. Design Sweepstakes, **Shirley Berger**.

Stampede City AVS, Alberta, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Vagabond, Baby Brad, **Margaret Loundes**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Margaret Gratto**. Best Standard: Rainbow's Quiet Riot; Best Miniature: Ness' Elfin Magic; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Tse**. Best Semiminiature: Pride of Columbus, **Maida den Ousten**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* ("And the winners are ..." continued on bottom of page 31)

A CLOSER LOOK



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

This time, in our quest for A Closer Look at our AVSA commercial members, we traveled to the great Pacific northwest. In a two and one-half hour drive northwest of Spokane, we located Danville, Washington and the home of Alannah's African Violets near the Canadian border. Just a short distance away is Grand Forks, British Columbia, where owner Alannah Regan and husband Bud live.

Alannah was born in Holland. As a child, she and her family emigrated to Ontario, where her father worked in the area of horticulture at Guelph University. It was at this university that Alannah studied horticulture, later moving west to British Columbia.

A career as a geriatric nurse was Alannah's desire. A rewarding field, but it can also thrust a person into difficult and unexpected situations. One such incident left Alannah with a painful back injury. After a lot of serious thought, she left nursing.

The next logical move was to go into the business of growing and selling African violets and other plants.

Her husband, Bud, was in the construction business and is now working with plants of all kinds. By far his biggest contribution to the young business was to construct a building, a violet room, and her greenhouses.

Bud described the first building as a 36' x 36' permanent structure that is "super-insulated" and heated by two furnaces. Within this building is a room measuring 18' x 30' that holds between 4,000 - 6,000 African violets. Benches stacked three high are placed around the periphery of the room, giving additional square feet for growing.

The greenhouse is covered with double plastic and is heated by a furnace. Here, from 4,000 to 10,000 plants are found at any given time.

In 1994, Alannah attended the AVSA convention in Denver, her first. That same year she joined AVSA as a



Alannah Regan and friend

commercial member. A very nice, well-produced catalog is available after March 1st, every year. Listed are about 230 African violets, plus recently added gesneriads, from *Achimenes* to *Streptocarpus*.

Alannah explained her new additions, "After building up what I thought was adequate stock, I added the gesneriads. I am still building more stock and will add more next year."

If you like geraniums, including scented, fancy leaf, dwarf, and rosebud varieties, you will probably find what you want among the approximately 400 varieties she carries.

If your tastes are even more exotic, try her tropical plants which include *Tabernaemontana divaricata*, otherwise known as "Butterfly Gardenia." It is described as "a semi-double, evening scented white flower produced year round on dark, glossy, compact growing leaves. An easy to grow container plant that reaches 3' to 4'."

An old cliché in the business world and club work is if you want something done, call on the busiest person you



Alannah's African Violets

know. Maybe that was the reason earlier this year a banker called Alannah with an offer. Seems the bank had foreclosed on a rose-growing nursery and needed someone to take over the business until it could be sold.

Suddenly, Alannah and Bud were in the rose business with four acres of rose bushes, of which 4,000 are mature plants grown as stock plants for taking cuttings. The rose operation also includes two display gardens, potted roses for retail sales, and a mail order business.

Alannah did not know the total number of roses under her care when we talked, but summed up the size of the nursery by saying, "Oh, it's huge."

Her business also includes field-grown medicinal herbs. "They include golden seal, echinacea and blue cohosh, which is another way to make living in the country more viable," said Alannah.

Alannah has no plans to hybridize. It is apparent why, when one sees that time and space are at a premium for this grower, and successful hybridizing requires both. She does have her favorite hybridizers among those who are active. Her favorite is Ruby Cox of Bethany, Missouri. "I wish I could get more of her varieties," she wished out loud. Next are the Soranos of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses in Dolgeville, New York. According to Alannah, "I love their consistency of high quality year after year." And, fellow Canadian, Denis Croteau, who has introduced several outstanding cultivars over the past few years.

Plants and leaves are shipped far and wide as growers learn of Alannah's high-quality plants and service. A recent order was shipped to a grower in Moscow, Russia, after having to go up the bureaucratic ladder to Ottawa to get the necessary documents. The order was shipped on a Monday and arrived in Moscow four days later.

After learning that Alannah has shipped to Japan and Thailand, and had sent a catalog to South Africa, I asked if she had any problems with foreign delivery. Alannah replied, "No, not at all. I am government certified in both countries, so there is no problem at all. It does require the proper documentation, but I have been doing this for a

while. I'm known and it's no problem."

Alannah's many compliments by phone, letter and e-mail attest to her attention to quality leaves and plants shipped in a timely manner. Orders are carefully prepared to arrive safely. Bud told me that "Genola Cox of Violet Express was Alannah's mentor" and had imparted the importance of providing the best to the customer.

Bud also gave me an example of his wife's attention to detail. He said, "She even ships all the orders out in brand new cartons." It is this attention to the little things that is sure to endear Alannah to African violet growers everywhere.

Without doubt, the Internet is the marketing tool of the future. Alannah wanted to get in on the ground floor, so has gone "cyberviolet" by getting her own web site and e-mail address. She freely admitted the difficulties in doing so, but believes the increase in the bottom line (every business person's barometer) from the greatly increased exposure is worth the effort. Check out her ads in this magazine for her web site address and e-mail address.

Alannah also has a fax number to help expedite orders, questions and other business transactions. For this businesswoman, it can truly be said that the future is now.

Insects are not a problem for Alannah. Whenever it is necessary to use something, she uses only organic insecticides such as Safer's Insecticidal Soap.

When fertilizing, Alannah uses a regimen of Peters 20-20-20 fertilizer, alternated with 15-30-15, plus a fish product named Neptune's Harvest which, like most marine life products, is very rich in trace elements. This combination, used according to directions, will promote rapid growth, excellent coloring and resistance to pests and diseases.

Most of the growers I talk with use the soil mix developed by Cornell University of 3:2:1 using sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite and perlite, respectively.

To accommodate her growing conditions, Alannah has modified the Cornell formula to 1:1:1, in which she uses one part glacial organic peat, vermiculite and perlite, in equal



Alannah's violet room

portions.

The soil mix has to be modified to suit some of the plants she grows, for instance, geraniums grow best in a slightly heavier soil mix.

The trade name of the organic peat moss Alannah uses is Superior Peat, from glacial bogs that are from 10,000 to 14,000 years old, and is completely composted. To my knowledge it is not available in the U.S.

Neptune's Harvest is available in the States, and has been advertised in the AVM. Call 1-800-259-4769 for information.

Straddling an international border poses no problems for Alannah and Bud. With the majority of the plants grown on the U.S. side, and their home some two or three minutes drive into Canada, travel is quick and easy.

Danville is situated in mountainous country that is covered with evergreen trees. After all, Washington is the Evergreen State. These trees make the area a center for

logging operations. Not far to the south is the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Alannah's philosophy for doing business is simple and to the point: "I try to do a good job and keep my catalog interesting - try something different."

Not only is Alannah interested in horticulture, she loves animals, and the recent purchase of four acres provides space for two llamas, two goats, rabbits, ducks, over twenty-five breeds of chicken, and a cat and dog.

It is now time to leave the scenic northwest and Alannah's African Violets, to continue our visits to AVSA commercial members for A Closer Look. Next time, our trip is to an area in what is arguably one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. Are we headed toward the Rockies, the Appalachians, or the Great Smoky Mountains? Or is it some lesser known range? Join us to discover our next destination, and meet another fascinating and informative commercial African violet grower.



Remembering Richard "Dick" Maduro

by David Buttram

Richard "Dick" Maduro, 73, of Gainesville, Florida died last June.

For several years, Dick, and his wife of forty years, Ann, operated The Violet House in Gainesville. Their familiar full page ad in the African Violet Magazine offered growers a full line of supplies at competitive prices and they often sold at AVSA conventions.

Dick was a paraplegic, having been injured in a motorcycle accident in 1943. But, the way he overcame his disability was an inspiration to all who knew him. Dick was a hard worker, and started his career by being elected City Clerk and Treasurer in a Florida town in 1947, a position he held for 19 years.

His involvement with wheelchair sports led to meeting his future bride, Ann, a physical therapist. Together, they competed as a team. She drove and Dick played. He utilized his tremendous upper body strength by participating in field events such as the shot put, javelin and

discus throw. But his first love was wheelchair basketball, which opened the door to travel to Japan for two years to set up wheelchair sports under the sponsorship of Justin Dart, son of the originator of Tupperware. He later did the same in Italy, and in recognition of his contributions to competitive sports for physically disabled persons, Dick was inducted into the National Wheel Chair Sports Association Hall of Fame in 1984. Ten years later he was inducted into the National Wheel Chair Basketball Hall of Fame.

Those who knew Dick Maduro were blessed by his inner strength, his love of life, and his deep devotion to his wife, Ann.

All of Dick's family, friends and customers were made richer by his life.

(Author's Note) Please read a complete report on the Maduros and the Violet House in the May-June 1992 AVM).

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from June 1 - July 31, 1998

AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK \$50.00
 West County AVC, St. Louis, MO 30.00
 Mrs. Marvel Fox, Bermuda 10.00
 Ms. Sandra Lister, Kodak, TN 5.00
 Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA 25.00
(in memory of Bea Canham)
 Ms. Suzanne P. Altenburg, Houston, TX 10.00
 Ms. Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
 North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN 15.00
 Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council 20.00
 Crosstown AVC - Madison, Madison, WI 15.00
 Ms. Susan Fraley, Albany, NY 5.00

Ms. Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC 10.00
 Mr. Keith Peregrine, Kingshill, VI 10.00
 E. M. McClelland, Elwood, IN 5.00
 Ms. Hilda Johnson, Cambridge, MA 10.00
 Ms. Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL 10.00
 Mr. Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS 7.00
 Ms. Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA 2.00
 Potomac Council of AV Judges, Annandale, VA 25.00
(in memory of Myrtle McKneely)
 First AV Society of Spartanburg, SC 10.00
 Milwaukee AVS 15.00
Total. \$294.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue
 Sun City, AZ 85373

Donations received from May 31, 1998 - July 31, 1998

Waukesha Violetees, Waukesha, WI 25.00
 AVS of Greater New York, Flushing, NY 100.00
in memory of Marcelline (Marcy) Koester
 The Pied Pipers AVS, St. Louis, MO 10.00
 Baton Rouge AVS, Baton Rouge, LA 25.00
in memory of Nellois Gremillion
 Town & Country AVC, Minot, ND 5.00
in memory of Ellen Kvamme
 AVC of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 25.00
in memory of Lucien Wallace
 Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA 5.00
 Sigrid Marquard, Virreyes Lomas, Mexico 10.00
 Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA 25.00
 New York AVS, New York, NY 15.00
in lieu of judge's expenses to Karyn Cichocki
 AV Study Club of Houston, Houston, TX 25.00
 Juanita Dash, Freeport, NY 2.00
 Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France 10.00
 Alexis Fesz, Columbia, MD 5.00
 Diane Keller, Austin, TX 3.00
 Carlsbad AVS, Fallbrook, CA 10.00
in memory of Orin Nichols
 Baltimore AVC, Baltimore, MD 10.00
in lieu of judge's expenses for
Mary Boland and Lurene Jones
 Annette Hickman, Ellsworth, MN 2.00
 AVS of Danville, Danville, VA 3.00
 AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 25.00

North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN 15.00
 Crosstown AVC-Madison, Madison, WI 25.00
 Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council 10.00
 AVS of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 25.00
 The First AVS of Spartanburg, SC 10.00
 Georgia State AV Council 25.00
in memory of Lucien E. Wallace
 Suburban AV Enthusiasts, Lansing, IL 2000.00
 Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI 15.00
 Linda Wilder, Quincy, CA 5.00
 Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS 15.00
 Sandra Lister, Kodak, TN 5.00
 Juanita Freeman, Altadena, CA 2.00
 Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
 James Frechette, Myakka City, FL 10.00
 Evelyn E. Stein, Tracy, CA 10.00
 Terri Dahnke, Carmel, IN 10.00
 Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA 5.00
 Mina Miyai Roy, Cold Bay, AK 7.00
 Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH 10.00
 Keith Peregrine, Kingshill, VI 10.00
 Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC 15.00
 Susan Farley, Albany, NY 15.00
 Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL 10.00
 Michael Israel, Louisville, KY 25.00
 Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA 2.50
 Nobuyuki Takano, Japan 10.00

Items Needed for Second Annual AVSA Convention Auction

It's not too early to begin making plans to donate items for our Second Annual AVSA Convention Auction to be held at the Saturday luncheon in Houston. We'll accept violet-related items: crafts, collectables, nice household items, as well as rare, unusual or exotic plant material including vintage violets, gesneriads and new hybrids.

Please let me know of your intent to donate, providing a description of the item and its approximate value. If you wish, you may send your item directly to my Texas contact, Dale Martens, who will store it and bring it to the auction.

All contributors will be listed in the Souvenir Convention Booklet and will be acknowledged in the AVM. Your contributions are very much appreciated!

Notify:

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
e-mail <Patter257@aol.com>

Send items to:

Dale Martens
2728 Masters
League City, TX 77573
e-mail <martens@wt.net>

Violet Grower's "Prop Box"

There are so many ways to propagate a leaf that I wouldn't presume to tell you to do it my way. However, it's essential to have a "Prop Box" handy for use at meetings or for a quick fix at home. A plastic shoe box works fine. Supplies can be kept to a bare minimum or can be very complete. The tools we use every day:

- small knife, exacto or razor blades
- brush for cleaning plant
- small spoon for getting the soil up, under and in the pot
- scissors, labels, permanent ink pen
- "sucker plucker"

My "Prop Box" also includes 3x5 cards, alcohol, cotton, wicks, small piece of wood, toothpicks, twisters, small plastic bags, small bag of potting soil, perlite and vermiculite, charcoal, solo cups with drainage holes and sphagnum moss.

Having your supplies on hand allows you to "do it now" rather than putting the job off until later.

Reprinted from *The Violet Thumb*, publication of the AVS of Springfield, PA

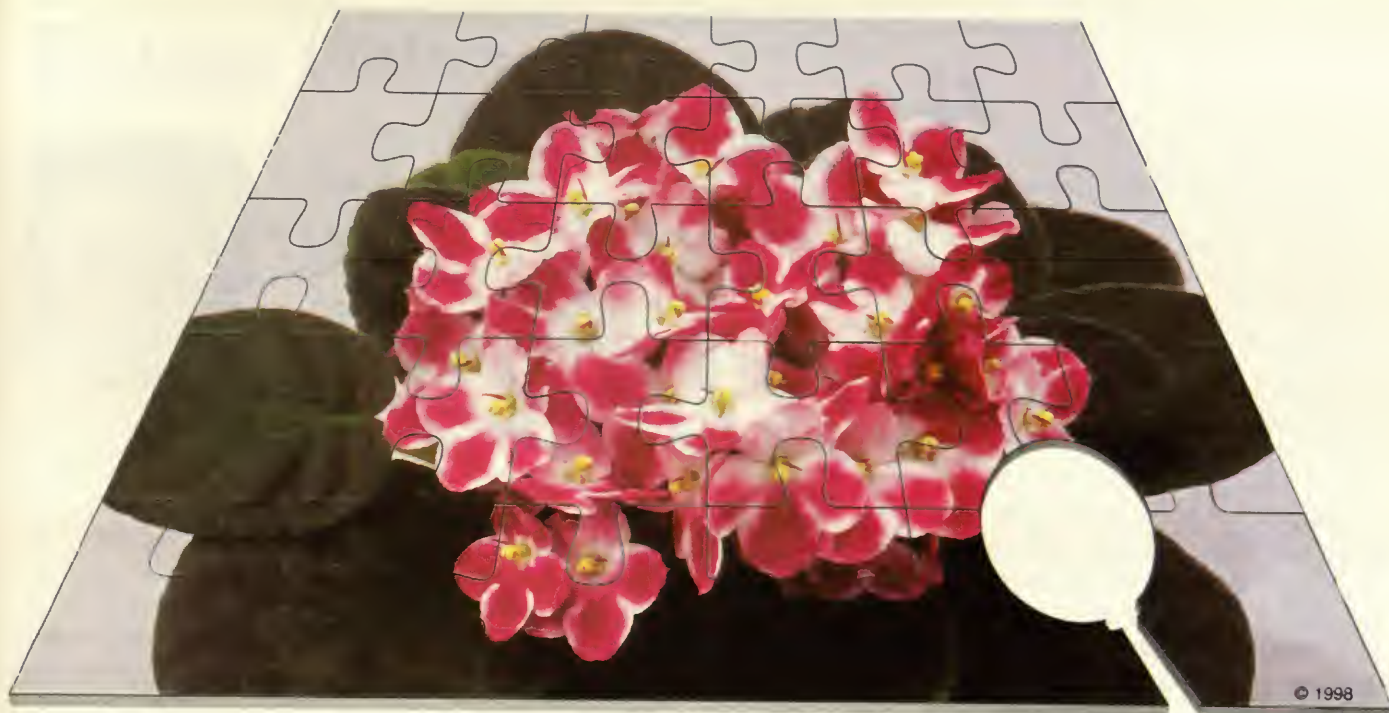
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE			
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)			
1. Publication Title AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE	2. Publication No. 009-020	3. Filing Date SEPT. 28, 1998	
4. Issue Frequency BI-MONTHLY	5. No. of Issues Published Annually 6	6. Annual Subscription Price \$18.00	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4®) (Not Press Room)			
2375 NORTH ST. BEAUMONT (JEFFERSON) TEXAS 77702-1722			
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Press Room)			
2375 NORTH ST. BEAUMONT (JEFFERSON) TEXAS 77702-1722			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank)			
Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address) AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. 2375 NORTH ST. BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702-1722			
Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) BETH B. HURLEY 2375 NORTH ST. BEAUMONT, TX 77702-1722			
Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address)			
NOT APPLICABLE			
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If the publication is published by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a proprietor, his name and address must be given.) (Do Not Leave Blank)			
Full Name Complete Mailing Address THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. 2375 NORTH ST. BEAUMONT, TX. 77702-1722			
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check here ☒ None			
Full Name Complete Mailing Address			
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of the organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes (Check only) ☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☐ If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement (For Instructions on Filing)			

13. Publication Title AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT. 1998
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	9318
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Do Not Include)	135
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)	884.5
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	8980
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free)	52
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	13
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	67
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	9047
h. Copies Not Distributed	271
i. Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	0
j. Return from News Agents	0
k. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h, and 15i)	9318
16. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15b(1) + 15b(2))	100
17. Statement of Ownership will be printed in the SEPT./OCT. 99 issue of this publication. ☐ Check box if not required to publish	
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner James Daugman ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	Date 9-28-98

Instructions to Publishers

- Complete and the one copy of this form with your postmaster on or before October 1, annually. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
- Include in items 10 and 11, in cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting; also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of this publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish all information called for in item 15, regarding circulation. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
- If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or the first printed issue after October, if the publication is not published during October.
- In item 16, indicate date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be printed.
- Item 17 must be signed.
- Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form 3526, October 1998 (Rev. 9/98)



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



“Pardon me - I didn't catch your name”

by Carolyn McAllen
Casper Bloomers, AVSA

There, in the middle of my violets with names written on their pots, blooms an unknown. It's quite pretty with very large medium pink blossoms and a narrow Geneva-type white ruffle on the edges. The leaves are light green with deeply serrated edges.

“Now I've got you,” I thought. “I'll just look through my catalogs for a description that matches this plant.”

Or so I thought! There's nothing that matches both bloom and foliage. It wouldn't be so bad if this were the only plant marked with a “?” on the pot. But I have a large number with the same question mark!

What happened to its name? That's hard to answer. I tried to be careful when I put the original leaves in containers to root. The only problem is that I have been trying to start leaves in clear plastic bakery containers, which may hold from 6 to 10 leaves.

I tried making a name tag to put to the right of each leaf. Unfortunately, some of the leaves died. Did the tag match the leaf that died or another one? Putting the marker between two leaves of the same name also created problems.

I have tried putting the initials of the plant on the back of the leaf - great until you try to figure out later what “PB” or “SW?” means.

Next, I tried to put the stem through a clear plastic tag with the name on it. Only trouble with that is that the ends of the stems rotted in the rooting mix. The leaves above the plastic remained healthy so I was able to rescue some of them.

Of course, the obvious answer is to root each leaf in a separate container covered with a plastic sandwich bag having the identification written on the outside. Unfortunately, they just take up too much space that way.

Also, at any given time I am rooting plants from a variety of sources. I order from several commercial growers, and

our club president and I swap seedlings as well as leaves. I've solved the seedling problem by immediately labeling them “X1” etc. My own, I keep straight with “M” labels for miniatures and “S” for standards.

At each club meeting our members bring leaves for persons having a birthday that month. Often these are not labeled, so I have plants tagged with “Cathy's” or “Edna's” in the hope that some day they can be identified, though I don't know why since the members are apparently in the same boat I am. (I admit that I've contributed “?” leaves myself).

Then there are sports which do not look like the parent plant, even though I'm sure of my labels. I currently have 2 from ‘Maria's Choice’. One is blooming now and the blossoms are identical to the parent plant. The leaves are large and shaped like the original. However, the leaves on both are not variegated as the original.

My first thought was that the two plants grew under Gro-Lux tubes whereas the parent has always been under soft-white tubes. Now I've put the blooming plant beside the parent to see if lighting is the answer.

I currently have 2 white, semidouble plants in bloom. One has very dark foliage and the other has light, serrated leaves. I have ordered only one white plant in the past, and I know for sure that it died. These are probably leaves from club members. Neither of them matches the description of the one that died.

I also have one of my friend's seedlings sitting on top of a reservoir. The pot is marked ‘Blue Boy’. Although the seedling is bearing semidouble dark blue blooms, I know that it is not a ‘Blue Boy’. The question is, will I remember that a year from now?

Obviously, I'm my own worst enemy. This is one of the few problems this year that can't be blamed on El Nino!

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Short of sounding like the California Bureau of Tourism, California is the greatest state of all. You, who attended the Convention in Sacramento discovered California in a big way. Now you can taste it too. The Lord saw fit to give us five months of rain and twice as much fruit and vegetables. Did you know that if California were a country we would rank seventh in the WORLD for commodities and that most of it is in my back yard? Blackberries, peaches, tomatoes, and not enough time to get it all done. Well I believe in the lend lease program. I'm giving a lot of it away!

I've received some of my correspondence back this month. BILLIE DORNBUSH if you are out there, Double Blue Boy has been found. Drop me a line, Billie and give me

your new address.

Some really great plants have joined my long master list. They are: Fire 'n' Ice, Interlude, Hot Lips, Blue Carnation, Cherry Pom Pom, Magenta and Crown of Gold, and by Sabastion; Blue Caty, Mauve Eyes, Pale Face and Rosy Frills. Thank you very much, Alice, for rescuing these very aged senior citizens: Fireworks, Fresno Hoedown, G. G. Matchmate, G. G. Drops O' Wine. Lady Mountbatten (Dates), Mary (Maas), Modern Jewel, Ness' Blue Velvet, Strawberry Shortcake, Sunburn, Strawberry Frost, The Parson's Happiness, Swifty Lace, Tye-dyed (Dates), and Zaca-roonie.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Alzira
Anna Therese
Blue Warrior
Cat's Meow
Calico Kitten
Coral Radiance
Gay Coquette
Granger's Fashionaire

Irish Sweeps
Mine Alone
Whisper Blue
Miriam Steel
Optimara Kansas
Optimara Missouri
Optimara New Jersey
Pink Velvet

Pink Philly
Plum Tip
Puerto Vallarta
Silver Token
Snow Flake
Spring Mist
Smokey Emerald
Violets 'n' Gold

My sincere appreciation to you all and remember to always return the postage, asked for or not.



Showcase

Dean's Ivory Lace

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs

Miniature

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Rebel's Cucumber Kool

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by:

Ruth Bann

Standard





Saddle Shoes

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by:

Kent Stork, Kent's Flowers

Standard

EYE ON DESIGN

“Rhythm in Design”

by Bob L. Green

In my article, “Eye on Design – The Principles,” in the July/ August 1994 African Violet Magazine, page 10, I briefly touched on rhythm in design and stated that “Rhythm is a dominant visual path through a design. It makes a design appear to be alive, rather than at rest. Rhythm suggests motion; it may be achieved by repetition or gradation in a linear direction. Repetition may be achieved by repeating a shape, a color, or direction. Exact repetition is monotonous, so it should be modified, such as pink for a repetition of red or gray for black; or a grouping of small round forms for a repetition of a large, round form. Gradation is a sequence in which the adjoining components are similar or harmonious. It implies gradual change in size, from large to small; in color, from dark to light and dull to bright; in weight, from heavy to light; and in texture, from coarse to fine.”

In this article, I would like to expand my explanation on rhythm in design, because I believe that of all the principles of design, rhythm is the most expressive.

Webster defines “rhythm” as “1. a) flow, movement, procedure, etc. characterized by basically regular recurrence of elements or features, as beat, or accent, in alternation with opposite or different elements or features [the rhythm of speech, dancing, the heartbeat, etc.] b) such recurrence; pattern of flow or movement 2. flow or apparent movement in a work of art, literature, drama, etc. through patterns in the timing, spacing, repetition, accenting, etc. of the elements.”

The AVSA Handbook states that rhythm is one of the principles of design (the others being: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, and scale) which are the rules by which the elements of design (color, form, line, pattern, space, and texture) are manipulated to create beauty, harmony, expression, and order; and specifically defines “rhythm” as “the visual activity or movement through the design” (page 67), “achieved through repetition with variation of components of design through line, space, gradation of color, and illusion of depth” (page 71); and instructs the judge to “look for pleasing line placement, pattern or form” and “deduct points for lack of depth, grace, or variety” (page 67).

Rhythm is most important because it draws the eye from one part of the design to the whole, and then to the

focal point. It is rhythm which creates the required atmosphere, giving either a feeling of grace, peace, and tranquility or one of activity or tension.

Line direction, radiation from a single point, visual tensions, repetitions, transitions, and gradations all work to establish rhythm. Unlike balance, which can be established through the use of twos, rhythm normally needs three or more solids and/or spaces to establish a flow of movement (the exception being a solid line, which moves the eye over its surface and onward).

In both traditional and modern designs, rhythm is established when the eye sees a center of interest and then moves smoothly to the secondary areas of interest. In these types of designs, there should be a gradual linking of the elements to provide an uninterrupted flow upward and outward from the center of interest or focal point. Unity is produced by dominance and dominance is produced by repetition of a line, color, shape, or space which moves the eye smoothly through the design – thus, insuring unity of the whole.

In abstract designs, rhythm is established when the eye starts with one part of the design, stops and backtracks over the whole design, rather than taking a single path from the focal point or center of interest to the secondary areas of interest. Rhythm in abstract designs is achieved by interrelated units. Unity is of a different kind, as the placement of the units in space, their directions and tensions supply movement through the designs.

Line carries rhythm as nothing else can. Rhythm may be gained through a series of lines (and shapes) pointing in the same direction; through a graded series of curves; through stress on lines rather than plane or points. This is not to say, however, that all lines and shapes must move in the same directions; some contrast is always necessary, if only to emphasize the dominant direction. A designer should use line to lead the eye from one area of interest to the next in a logical sequence. The movement along sweeping, long curves is even and gentle. In an abstract and some modern designs, crossing and changing directional lines speed the eye movement and give vitality and vigor, when used properly, to the design by creating spacial tensions.

Gradation of size from large to medium to small initiates rhythmic movement. The progressive decrease or increase

in the size of space intervals or voids provides rhythmic transition from solidity of mass to surrounding and supporting space by way of tapered line and reduced interest.

Gradual change in color from dark to light, bright to dull, and hue to hue all add variety to movement. Color rhythm used to strengthen line by following the same contours adds emphasis and dominance. A focal point or center of interest that rivets the eye to one spot should be avoided by the designer, and penalized by the judge.

Space can control, activate, or slow down the visual movement through a design. The designer who uses space wisely to establish rhythm (and thus, unity), is to be commended. The shapes of the spaces, as well as the masses, should be interesting and varied. Space movements differ in variety and speed: some rhythms are even and smooth; some rhythms are sharp and staccato; and some rhythms have easy balance, while others have disturbing balance.

Depth rhythm is important in establishing third dimension. The repetition of similarly shaped objects placed diagonally behind each other create an illusion of rhythmic depth. A flat leaf can be given depth by bending or curling it while its companions are used in the natural plane – thus depth and contrast are added and repetition and rhythm are satisfied.

In evaluating a design, a judge should deduct points when too many forms of similar size and importance tend to freeze the rhythm. Likewise, a judge should penalize a design with monotonous regularity of too many evenly spaced voids around the boundary and too many evenly sized and spaced forms. Also, a judge should penalize a

design whose component parts divide the design, or appears to cut the visual picture in half. Unity is of the utmost importance. If a smooth visual path is lacking between the main line and the focal point or center of interest, a judge should penalize the design. Sandwiching of form or color so the eye is prevented from any movement except up or down or sideways should also be penalized by a judge. Also, if the rhythm is confusing, leading the eye in too many directions with none dominant, the design should be penalized.

Rhythm is one of the key ingredients in kinetic designs (mobiles, stables, and stamobiles). The principle of rhythm is more important to this type of design than it is to the static designs. The rhythmic movement is not only physical, but visual. Physical movement is created by air currents and mechanics, whereas visual movement is attained through line direction, gradation, and repetition. The moving components of a kinetic design should revolve freely, smoothly, and gracefully in the air currents, and the eye should be satisfied by finding repeated forms, repeated textures, repeated space shapes, and repeated colors; and the visual movement or rhythm should be expressed by gradation of size from large to smaller, of color from dark to lighter, of bright to muted, and of textures from rough to smoother with satisfactory transitions to carry the eye along.

In closing, I would like to thank Esther Veramae Hamél, whose book, The Fully Revised Encyclopedia of Judging & Exhibiting Floriculture & Flora - Artistry, was used extensively in writing this article. I recommend it to all of you who would like to be more proficient in creating designs and more knowledgeable in judging them.



(“And the winners are ...” continued from page 19)
orbicularis purpurea, **Gabriela Liberty**. Best Gesneriad:
xSmithicodonia ‘Behavin’, **Gertrud Schneider**. Best
Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Winston Goretsky**.

Syracuse AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard
Collection: Satin Dancer, Taffeta Petticoats, Lyon’s Blushing
Bride; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lyon’s Blushing Bride;
Best species: *Saintpaulia magungensis minima*, **Ethel
Champion**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob’s Cloudy
Skies, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Amethyst;
Best Semiminiature: Rob’s Match Point; Best Miniature:
Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna
Coleman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt,
Rob’s Shadow Magic, Winnie Woo, **Mary Ryan**. Best
Trailer: Rob’s Boolaroo, **Karen Dupree**. Best Design, **Janet**

Ferguson. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Ellison and
Ethel Champion**.

Toronto AVS, Ontario, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA
Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, *Saintpaulia
ionantha*, *Saintpaulia confusa*; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi
Collection: Ness’ Cranberry Swirl, Precious Pink, Irish Flirt;
Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob’s Woolloomooloo; Best
Miniature: Aca’s Pink Pet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magun-
gensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea flaccida*; Horticulture
Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. 2nd Best AVSA
Standard Collection: Aca’s Tornado, Decelles’ Coralia,
Optimara Ontario, **Doris Brownlie**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi
Collection: Sassy Shirley, Precious Pink, Definitely Darryl;
Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley, **Betty Tapping**. Best
Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

Showcase

Rob's Twinkle Blue

*From 2nd Best
Commercial Display Table
1998 National Show
Grown and Hybridized by:*

***Ralph Robinson
Rob's Mini-o-lets***

*Photo Credit:
Library Crew*



Ness' Pixie Grin

*1998 Introduction
Grown and Hybridized by:
Don Ness, Midland Violets
Miniature*



African Violet



Saintpaulia grotei

1998 Supplement Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 1998 supplement to the eighth edition of the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML, formerly MVL). The supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 1998 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise, and accurate tool for classifying, judging, and exhibiting African violets.

The new, ninth edition of the AVML will be available in early spring through the Beaumont office. It will contain all

varieties registered through December 31, 1998, all recognized species, and non-registered cultivars introduced from July 1983 through December 1998.

The "universal" IBM and MAC AVML database, and the "FirstClass" version for Windows only, are available on 3.5 inch floppy disks for your computer at \$12.50, and \$5.00 for updates as available. Contact the Beaumont office for current dates and computer details.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's description of new cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgcrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713.

The 1998 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, African Violet Master List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 51 No. 6 November/December 1998

† designates change

Aca's Red Ember	(8732) 06/29/98	(J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red sticktite pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Alice Corinne	(8680) 01/20/98	(D. Harrington) Double dark purple pansy/near-black edge. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, spooned, longifolia, quilted, hairy, scalloped. Standard
All Ready Red	(8717) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Single red star/darker eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Alliance	(8663) 09/27/97	(D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue star/white and pink fantasy. Variegated green, cream and pink. Standard
Arctic Frost		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white large star/variable blue-marked eye, edge. Medium green. Standard
Aunt Georgia		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Aunt Irene		(K. Stork) Semidouble-double pink. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature
Blissful Lady	(8696) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single lavender pansy/darker tips. Variegated green and white, plain. Standard
Blue Aura		(S. Sorano) Semidouble blue large frilled star/darker band, thin white edge. Dark green, quilted. Large
Blue Bingo	(8697) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single light blue star/white edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. Standard
Blue Fuss	(8698) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark blue star. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated. Standard
Blue Masterpiece		(S. Sorano) Double dark blue star. Variegated dark green, white and variable pink. Standard
Blushing Fantasy		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium pink star/hot pink eye, dark blue fantasy. Dark green/red back. Standard
Broadway Star		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium pink large star/fuchsia sparkle fantasy. wide darker edge. Dark green. Standard
Bubbling Over	(8699) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark pink star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Buckeye Ballerina	(8740) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Double lavender-pink frilled/purple fantasy; variable purple edge. Variegated medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. Standard
Buckeye Calico	(8741) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. Large
Buckeye Chatterbox		(P. Hancock) Single medium pink sticktite star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cherry Confection		(P. Hancock) Single cherry pink sticktite ruffled pansy/raspberry overlay. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cherry Pink	(8742) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright mauve-pink ruffled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. Large
Buckeye Cherry Topping	(8743) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Single-semidouble bright pink sticktite pansy/cherry frilled edge. Variegated black-green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. Large

Buckeye Colossal	(P. Hancock) Semidouble peach-pink star/red sparkle edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Constellation	(P. Hancock) Single light purple sticktite ruffled star/raspberry and purple fantasy, raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cosmic Rays (8744) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, plain, hairy, wavy/red back. Large
Buckeye Country Gal	(P. Hancock) Single fuchsia sticktite ruffled pansy/variable fantasy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Country Lilacs	(P. Hancock) Single lavender two-tone sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler (8745) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled pansy/variable raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. Large
Buckeye Cranberry Swirl (8746) 07/27/98	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light cranberry ruffled star/dark cranberry and purple fantasy; variable raspberry edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. Large
Buckeye Crown Jewels	P. Hancock) Single pale raspberry ruffled pansy/darker veins, variable red edge. Variegated medium-dark green, pink and cream, scalloped. Large
Buckeye Curtain Call	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double cranberry/darker sparkle overlay. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Large
Cardinal	(Volkman) Double purple-red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Carol	(Volkman) Semidouble dark rose large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Chain Reaction	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera light pink large star/dark blue stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, plain. Standard
Cherry Push-up (8700) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double cherry red star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Chopper	(Volkman) Single white large star. Dark green. Standard
Clowning Around	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white large star/pink eye, fuchsia sparkle eye, edge. Light-medium green, plain. Standard
Connie Salland (8674) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera rose-pink fluted/white stripe, variable green edge. Dark green, wavy. Standard
Crystal Red	(Volkman) Semidouble medium red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Cynde (8675) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted. Standard
Dakota Moonlight	(D. Heath) Single fuchsia sticktite star. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Standard
Dean's Bashful (8685) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Semidouble white ruffled/hot pink rays. Variegated olive green and white, quilted, scalloped. Semiminiature
Dean's Brandywine (8686) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark burgundy sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, ovate. Semiminiature
Dean's Faded Rose (8682) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Double wine/old rose shading. Mosaic variegated green, pink and white, plain, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Freckles (8687) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble pink/blue fantasy. Variegated medium green and white, pointed. Semiminiature
Dean's Lady Bug (8688) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single dark red sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
†Dean's Legacy (7679) 03/03/92	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Semidouble pink frilled. Variegated dark green, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
Dean's Lucienne (8689) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/darker band, white edge. Variegated medium green and white, ovate, glossy. Semiminiature

Dean's Peach Blush	(8683) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single pale peach sticktite pansy. Variegated dark green and white, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Rosalie	(8690) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Double rose two-tone. Variegated dark green and white, heart-shaped/red back. Miniature
Dean's Ruby	(8691) 01/28/98	(K. Hobbs-Gregg) Single-semidouble fuchsia pansy/darker top petals. Variegated dark green, pink and white, heart-shaped. Semiminiature
Dean's Silver Veil	(8684) 01/28/98	(C. Hobbs/H. Hobbs) Single-semidouble silver-blue lavender pansy/darker veining, overlay. Variegated green, pink and white, ovate. Semiminiature
†Decelles' Defi	(8658) 08/18/97	(Brownlie/Decelles) Semidouble blue-purple pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. Standard
Designer Print.		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble creamy white star/bright pink patches. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Do-Be-Pink	(8701) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink star. Dark green, pointed, ruffled. Standard
Doctor Sandey	(8676) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark purple frilled/white stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted, scalloped. Large
Dolores' Antoinette	(8714) 03/11/98	(D. Harrington) Semidouble pink, cream and lavender ruffled pansy. Medium green, pebbled, glossy, wavy. Standard
Dora Picard	(8664) 09/27/97	(D. Croteau) Semidouble light pink star/variable raspberry edge. Variegated medium green, cream-pink and tan. Standard
Double Dip		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale pink star/blue fantasy. Dark green. Standard
Faded Denim		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light blue large wavy star/variable green tips. Medium green. Standard
Fanny Sue	(8733) 06/29/98	(J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble blue two-tone star. Variegated green, pink and white, plain, quilted. Standard
†Fantastic Fantasy	(8576) 01/16/97	(D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy; variable darker pink stripe. Medium-dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Fantasy Freckles	(8672) 11/18/97	(F. Tinari) Double lavender-pink ruffled large/dark purple fantasy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. Standard
Festive Amethyst		(S. Sorano) Semidouble amethyst/dark purple markings, variable lavender shading. Dark green, quilted. Standard
First Robin.	(8667) 10/18/97	(P. Harris) Semidouble pink/red eye; variable red on tips. Dark green, heart-shaped, pointed, serrated/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Floozie		(K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid pink pansy/thin raspberry sparkle edge. Dark green. Standard
Foolish Pride	(8702) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single vivid pink star. Dark green, pointed, serrated. Large
Futuriste	(8659) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble mauve star/darker veining, raspberry edge. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and pink, quilted. Standard
Geisha Girl		(G. Durand) Single peach two-tone sticktite pansy/darker top petals. Dark green, pointed, quilted. Semiminiature
Glitter Memory	(8718) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double fuchsia/orchid overlay, pink-green edge. Dark green, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Glitter Ray's	(8719) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double rose-pink/raspberry overlay. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Golden Eye		(S. Sorano) Double white star/yellow markings. Variegated dark green, pink and white. Semiminiature
Golden Flash		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white star/yellow streaks, light blue edge. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Golden Fountain		(S. Sorano) Double white large star/bluish-purple eye, yellow blush. Medium green, plain. Standard

Good Morning Pink	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid pink frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Hula Hoop	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera light blue pansy/white stripe. Medium green, pointed. Miniature
Icy Sunset	(S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia large star/white fluted edge. Dark green, plain/red back. Standard
Irish Touch	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double white pansy/bright green edge. Variegated dark green, white and cream. Semiminiature
Jade Of Rose	(8703) 03/04/98 (R. Russell) Double light pink star/green edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted. Standard
Jeanette	(Volkmann) Semidouble fuchsia-red/white ruffled edge. Dark green. Standard
Jeedle Jay.....	(8677) 11/22/97 (R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera lavender frilled star/white stripe. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Judith Karen	(8681) 01/20/98 (D. Harrington) Double dark blue large star/some pink. Variegated medium green and creamy yellow, spooned, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped. Standard
Just Checking	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/pink eye, fuchsia-sparkled eye, edge; some green on top petals. Light-medium green, plain. Standard
Kiss 'n' Tell	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark rose star. Variegated dark green, white, cream and pink. Semiminiature
Kissing Bandit	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue large frilled star/dark red-blue shaded edge. Dark green, quilted. Standard
†Lambert Closse	(8660) 09/19/97 (Regan/Croteau) Semidouble lavender-red large star. Variegated medium green and cream. Standard
Little Chatterbox	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark pink star/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Little Polar Bear	(S. Sorano) Double chimera white star/dark blue stripe. Medium green. Semiminiature
Lucien Croteau	(8665) 09/27/97 (D. Croteau) Semidouble plum pansy/pink fantasy. Variegated medium green, cream and pink, quilted. Standard
Lying Eyes	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink ruffled star/rose-fuchsia eye, blue fantasy. Dark green, quilted, ruffled/red back. Standard
Lyon's Finger Paints	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/orchid patches on lower petals, variable on top petals. Medium green, plain. Standard
Lyon's Fireworks	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium pink star/fuchsia fantasy, wide fuchsia edge. Dark green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Harvest Moon	(S. Sorano) Double pink and yellow star. Medium green. Standard
Lyon's Nightfall	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue large fluted star. Dark green, quilted, ovate/red back. Standard
Lyon's Party Flirt	(S. Sorano) Semidouble pale pink frilled/lavender-blue fantasy. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
Lyon's Radiance	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera vivid coral/purple stripe, fantasy. Variegated medium-dark green, cream and white/red back. Standard
Marcella	(Volkmann) Single rose-red star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Maty	(8725) 04/20/98 (D. Harrington) Single red/violet overlay. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. Semiminiature
Midnight Frolic	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble plum and purple large frilled star/wide white edge, lavender and light plum tints. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Miss Santa Cruz	(8729) 06/03/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white edge, variable darker tips. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard

Moon Goddess	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double creamy-white large star. Medium green, heart-shaped. Standard
Moonless Night	(K. Stork) Double dark violet-blue frilled. Black-green/red back. Standard
Moonlight Magic	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera pink pansy/dark lavender stripe. Variegated medium green, cream and tan. Standard
Motley Crew	(G. Durand) Semidouble bright pink star/white eye, variable markings. Medium green, plain, ovate. Semiminiature
Ms. Gigglebox	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera light purple pansy/white stripe. Medium green, ovate, quilted. Semiminiature
Ms. Smartypants	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe, green frilled edge. Medium green, ruffled. Semiminiature
Mystical Love (8720) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double rose-pink ruffled star/raspberry overlay. Dark green, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
†Night Vision (8724) 03/23/98	(D. Harrington) Semidouble black-wine large frilled star. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back. Standard
Oceanside	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera dark blue frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green. Standard
Oh So Blue (8704) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double medium blue star. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. Standard
Okie Easter Bunny (8715) 03/11/9	8(J. Cochran) Single pale pink sticktite pansy/wide bright raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. Standard
†Pastel Parasol (8728) 05/18/98	(J. Swift) Single-semidouble lavender-pink large frilled star/white edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Peach Sundae	(D. Heath) Single peach-pink sticktite ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream. Standard
Phantom	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark blue large star. Variegated dark green, cream and variable pink. Standard
†Phobos (8661) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble burgundy star/pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted. Large
Phosphorescence (8673) 11/18/97	(F. Tinari) Double lavender/fuchsia sparkle overlay, purple ruffled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. Standard
Pink Feathers	(S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/darker fantasy. Variegated dark green, pink and tan, serrated. Standard
Pirate's Gold	(S. Sorano) Double white fluted star/lemon-yellow blush. Medium green, quilted, wavy. Standard.
Pixie Peppermint	(S. Sorano) Double chimera white star/red stripe. Variegated medium green and white. Semiminiature
Rainbow Connection	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink large fluted star/light blue fantasy; wide light fuchsia band, darker flecks, edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Rainy Day Wishes	(S. Sorano) Single lavender-pink sticktite star. Variegated medium green, white, cream and pink. Standard
Ray's Big Wow (8705) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single dark lavender star. Variegated medium green and white, pointed, quilted, ruffled. Large
Ray's Coral Dawn (8706) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single-semidouble coral star/darker eye. Dark green, pointed, serrated. Standard
Ray's Royal Crystals (8707) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double plum-blue frilled star. Variegated dark green and white pointed, quilted. Large
†Rebel's Ambrosia (8300) 11/22/95	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink pansy/darker band, thin white frilled edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped/red back. Large
†Rebel's Centennial Star (8723) 03/18/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark red large star. Medium green, pointed quilted, serrated/red back. Standard

Rebel's Crested Robin	(8692) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble bright red pansy/white ruffled edge. Dark green plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Rebel's Night Breezes	(8693) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue large star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
†Rebel's Purple Shadows	(8694) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble orchid-purple two-tone pansy/black-purple edge. Variegated dark green, tan and rose, plain, glossy, ruffled/red back. Large
†Rebel's Splatter Kake	(8695) 01/31/98	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star/darker eye, purple fantasy white-green edge. Medium green, spooned, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Red Cherry		(Volkmann) Single red ruffled. Dark green. Standard
Rob's Bamboozle	(8734) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble bright rose-pink pansy. Dark green, ovate glossy/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Fuzzy Navel	(8735) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Double peach-pink star. Dark green, pointed/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Itty Bitty	(8736) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble bright pink bell. Dark green, pointed/red back. Miniature
Rob's Oopsie Daisy	(8737) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Double chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe. Crown variegated medium green and white. Semiminiature
Rob's Outer Orbit	(8738) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy/bright pink spots, white edge. Variegated dark green and white, quilted/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Rinky Dink	(8739) 07/25/98	(R. Robinson) Semidouble dark burgundy-red pansy. Dark green, pointed glossy/red back. Miniature
Rose Beauty		(Volkmann) Single dark rose-red star. Medium green. Standard
Royal Rage		(S. Sorano) Single lavender-blue shaded fluted star/darker blue overlay, red-purple band, white edge. Variegated dark green, cream and beige. Standard
Saddle Shoes		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite pansy/violet-blue patches. Medium green plain. Standard
San Mateo	(8730) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Single-semidouble purple two-tone frilled pansy/darker shading at tips, variable darker purple-green edge. Variegated green, white and pink ruffled. Standard
San Mateo Blues	(8731) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double lavender-blue two-tone frilled large/variable white markings, thin white-green and/or purple edge. Variegated green white and pink. Standard
Scenario	(8662) 09/19/97	(Regan/Croteau) Semidouble violet-red/variable purple edge. Variegated medium green, cream and light pink, quilted. Large
Sergeant Pepper		(S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink frilled pansy/blue fantasy; red sparkle and edge. Variegated medium green and creamy white. Standard
Skeeter	(8716) 03/11/98	(J. Cochran) Single light lavender sticktite pansy/wide dark raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Smitten Kitten		(S. Sorano) Semidouble lavender pansy/large purple eye. Variegated dark green, white and pink, heart-shaped, girl foliage. Miniature
Smooch Me		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink/red eye. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Snow Leopard		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Dark green. Semiminiature
Steel Blue	(8708) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double medium blue frilled star. Medium-dark green, pointed serrated. Large
Stephanie Croteau	(8666) 09/27/9	7(D. Croteau) Semidouble dark purple star/dark coral fantasy, white edge. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Steppin' Stone		(S. Sorano) Single white sticktite frilled star/lavender-blue patches. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Strawberry Love	(8721) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double white and rose-pink frilled star. Variegated green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. Standard

Strawberry Swirl	(8722) 03/16/98	(R. Russell) Double red and white ruffled star. Variegated green, white and pink, pointed, quilted, pebbled. Standard
Sue Hoffmann	(8678) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Semidouble chimera dark pink pansy/lavender stripe, darker fantasy. Dark green, plain. Standard
Sunny Skies		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light blue star/yellow markings. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Susanny	(8679) 11/22/97	(R. Loomis) Single chimera pink frilled star/lavender stripe, fantasy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy. Standard
Susie		(Volkman) Single dark pink star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
The Artist		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink star/variable blue, purple, red and pink fantasy. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Therese	(8726) 04/25/98	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy. Variegated medium green and white, plain. Standard
Thunder 'n' Lightning		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white star/variable light purple and yellow markings. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Twice Spice	(8709) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble medium pink frilled star/lavender fantasy. Dark green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Ultra Blue Ray's	(8710) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Double dark blue ruffled star. Variegated dark green and white pointed, quilted. Large
Velvet Ray's	(8711) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Single cherry red star/white edge. Dark green, pointed quilted/red back. Standard
Velvet Valentine		(S. Sorano) Semidouble dark mauve-red shaded pansy. Dark green, plain. Standard
Victorian Print		(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera medium pink pansy/purple stripe, lighter fantasy. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Volkman's Holiday		(Volkman) Semidouble red large/white edge. Medium green, plain, round. Standard
Volkman's Jane		(Volkman) Single dark rose/white edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Majestic		(Volkman) Semidouble purple-red ruffled large. Dark green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Twilight Halo		(Volkman) Semidouble orchid star/fuchsia edge. Dark green, quilted, round. Standard
Von's Friend Syl	(8668) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Single-semidouble pale pink pansy/fuchsia frilled edge. Variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted. Standard
Von's Little Lady	(8669) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Double pink two-tone pansy. Variegated medium green and cream, plain. Semiminiature
Von's Marissa	(8670) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Single pink two-tone sticktite frilled pansy. Variegated green white and pink, plain. Semiminiature
Von's Soft Touch	(8671) 11/08/97	(Y. Lambert) Semidouble lavender pansy/darker-tipped top petals. Variegated green, white and pink, plain, hairy. Semiminiature
Whirligig Star		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite star/red-plum patches. Medium green. Standard
Windmill		(K. Stork) Single white sticktite star/plum-purple patches. Medium green glossy. Standard
†Wishing Well		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple large star/green-white frilled edge. Medium-dark green, wavy. Standard
Yesterday's Kiss	(8712) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium-dark blue ruffled star. Dark green heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. Standard
Yesterday's Love	(8713) 03/04/98	(R. Russell) Semidouble-double medium pink frilled star/blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated. Large
Yvon Decelles	(8727) 04/25/98	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble blue star/white streaks, edge. Variegated medium green, pink and white, scalloped. Standard

PLANT STAND
BUT ONE



Columnea
"Broget Stavanger"
Grown and Exhibited by: Jeani Hatfield

BUILDING A PLANT STAND

by Don Geiss

The lady commented that she could not find room in the house to put her violets. She stated that her modern home did not have any windowsills.

That problem is faced at virtually every workshop or craft show in which we participate. It then becomes a conversation devoted to alternate locations and/or methods of placing plants. Generally, we try to show the feasibility of plant stands and the use of artificial lights.

Invariably our preference turns to a way of modifying a metal, four-shelf storage unit for use as a plant stand. Often they can be found on sale for about \$12. These can be spray painted a color compatible with the room decor (\$3).

The stand can be assembled according to the instructions included. The shelf height can be adjusted so that three shelves are about 20 inches apart. As the reader will note by the photo, there will be a top shelf with an added frame above and then two additional shelves. Finally the bottom shelf can be used for storage since there will only be about 14 inches of space left out of a total stand height of 60 inches.

The added top frame can be made of 1" x 2" wood or of PVC pipe. It is simply an assembly similar to a "football goal-post" with the top arms eliminated. Its purpose, as the photo illustrates, is to suspend a fluorescent shoplight over the top shelf. The height above the plant tops can be made adjustable by cutting the side struts of the goal post extra long and then running them up or down the side of the plant rack. Holes can be made at various distances apart in the struts so that they can be bolted to the rack side at heights determined after they have had lights installed.

The stand generally has shelving about 10" to 12" wide. Extra width can be added by bolting on one quarter inch masonite or plywood, so that the stand can carry more plants. It should be cut to fit on top of each shelf, perhaps as wide as 18 inches. That addition should be bolted to the metal shelf. This arrangement may cause the stand to be unsteady. Solve this problem by anchoring it to the wall.

To the underside of each shelf and the top goal post, attach a four foot shoplight at a sale cost of about \$9 each. We use fluorescent tubes of cool light on sale for about \$1 each. It should be noted that the very construction of the



commercial rack allows for adjustment of the shelves higher or lower depending on the experience of the user. There is nothing that binds the user into a predetermined height. Small suspension hooks can be bolted under the shelves and through the goal post above to hold the light fixtures.

The total cost of the rack, paint, lights and shelving purchased on sale, plus suspension hooks for the lights should not exceed \$60. Of course the prices might vary slightly from state to state. We cannot stress enough that the photo be used as a reference because detailing each step is extremely difficult. In some cases a person who is handy about the house can immediately see the details. We recognize that there are some households where assembly of the various parts is difficult if not impossible. Perhaps a friend can be conned into helping out or maybe the local dealer would be willing to assemble the basic unit.

For the handyman, some of the accessories are proba-

bly available in the workshop. Pieces of masonite or plywood may already be available. The appropriate suspension hooks may also be stored in various containers about the shop.

Another fact that might be overlooked in the discussion of artificial lighting is that the spotlight may be suspended over any table. For instance, a coffee table will serve as a great plant stand. We have made these stands for others by using a painted piece of plywood bolted or screwed to the top of an old end table. In a couple of cases we found an old coffee table for a dollar or two in garage

sales. In one case a piano bench served the purpose. In these instances, the stand was sprayed a decor-matching color. Once again using our goal post analogy, the device can be bolted to the sides of the table for the purpose of hanging the light fixture.

Perhaps the matter may be summed up by noting that where there is a will, there is a way to add more plant space. Perhaps by using the artificial light method the reader will find even more success in raising African violets than with the more traditional idea of using the window sill.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 JULY

Mr. Seiji Sakuma, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mr. Yutaka Nagasawa, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mrs. Takako Tamaura, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mrs. Shizuko Sasaki, Toyko, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mrs. Toshiko Nagai, Saitama, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mrs. Yumiko Matsunaga, Tokyo, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Mrs. Masako Sasaki, Saitama, Japan. \$30.00

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

AVS of Greater Tulsa, OK. \$50.00

Diane Keller, Austin, TX. \$4.00

Mary Robinson, Shawnee Mission, KS. \$10.00

Sandra Lester, Kodak, TN. \$5.00

Karen Palmer, Irmo, SC. \$2.00

North Star AV Council, Bloomington, MN. \$15.00

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, MO. \$15.00

The Crosstown AV Club, Madison, WI. \$15.00

AV Club of Burlington, NJ. \$15.00

In lieu of judges expenses for Kurt Eckard,

AVS Phila; Jan Marasco, Central Jersey AVS and

Bob Kurzynski, AVS North Jersey

Fu Chen Tung, Kao Hsiuny, Taiwan. \$2.00

Dorothy Galvin, Houston, TX. \$25.00

Potomac Council of AV Judges, VA. \$25.00

In fond memory of our charter member and

honorary lifetime member, Myrtle McKneely

E.M. McClelland, Elwood, IN. \$5.00

Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC. \$10.00

Susan Fraley, Albany, NY. \$5.00

Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY. \$10.00

Mrs. Donald Thompson, Silver Spring, MD. \$2.00

Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL. \$5.00

Kathy Robinson-Nikiorov, New York, NY. \$2.00

C.P. Povey, Stillwater, MN. \$25.00

First AVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC. \$15.00

Jack Wilson, Manassas, VA. \$25.00

In lieu of speaker's fee to

The Woman's Community Club, Kensington, MD

Debra Csuy, Winter Springs, FL. \$10.00

Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA. \$2.50

WI Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee, WI. \$25.00

In lieu of speaker's fee to Mr. Steve Covola

Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program

Green County Late Bloomers, Monroe, WI. \$15.00

Milwaukee AV Society, Milwaukee, WI. \$15.00

Total \$564.50



Showcase

Mama's Little Sport

1998 Introduction

*Grown and Hybridized by: **Ruby Cox***

Semiminiature



Fantasy Freckles

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by

Frank Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses

Standard





"Bertha"

Best in Class 1998 National Show

*Grown and Exhibited by: **Dorothy Kosowsky***

*Hybridized by: **Bill Foster***

Standard

To honor **Bill** and **Paula Foster**,
special awards for the best 'Bertha' will be given at the
1999 AVSA convention in Houston, TX,
in both amateur and commercial classes.

Please make plans to enter your 'Bertha' when you go to
Houston to join the Lone Star Violet Round-up, April 4-11, 1999.

From Russia, With Love

by Shirley Sanders
San Antonio, TX



Elizabeth Sadova

I have many times stated that our little African violet plant has done more to spread love and friendship than any diplomat has ever achieved. Proof of this has come to us from Moscow.

I have been writing to some of our violet friends in Moscow for the past three years. Elizabeth Sadova was our first correspondent. She is employed by a company called Centre for Business Skills Development. The company provides training

for multinational businesses in Russia and brings her to the United States two to four times a year. She called us while on one of these trips and wanted to purchase leaves to take back to Moscow when she returned home. I sent her AVSA magazines, pictures of African violets and other material on how to care for plants. She and I have become friends and now correspond through e-mail. She has since become a member of AVSA and has ordered the book Growing to Show and our AVSA Fiftieth Anniversary Book.

One of Elizabeth's trips to the U. S. brought her to San Antonio. We were privileged to have had her as a guest in our home in July. We spent the day in the Violet House talking about the plants, answering questions she had about growing the African violet and our methods for making soil, potting up leaves, transplanting, and what fertilizers we use. Elizabeth took pictures of the plants to take back to Russia and selected several leaves to take home as well, which my husband, Sandy, boxed up for air travel.

Some of our club members and friends joined us in the evening to celebrate her visit in San Antonio. Alma and

Bob Hummer had visited Russia and had much to talk with Elizabeth about, as did the rest of our friends; Bill and Dea Johnson, Douglas Gregory, Hector Becerra, Steve Spachek, Marjorie Crawford and Ken Froboese.

Of course we had many questions to ask of our Russian friend about their methods for growing violets. They have had an African violet club in Moscow for four years. We were surprised to hear that before their club in Moscow was formed there was an amateur club in Biophytum for 30 years! I asked if many subscribed to the AVM and was told that because of the language barrier that only two people in their club receive the magazine. Too bad it isn't published in different languages! What sales we would have!

Their club has 30 members and this number varies as some members go and new members join. They have a show and sale twice a year, usually at the end of spring and again in August or September. The show plants are sold on the last day of the show.

Until they began receiving leaves from growers here in the United States, they bought their plants from growers in Holland. Most of the plants they bought were Ballet or Optimara® varieties.

They truly enjoy getting so many different varieties that are hybridized in our country. There are growers in Russia who are now hybridizing and they can buy some plants from them, but the majority come from American hybridizers.

Elizabeth explained that people in Moscow live mainly in apartments with one to three rooms. This does not give much area for growing space, but as most of us know, where the



Irina Danilina



*Back (L to R): Steve Spachek, Hector Becerra, Bill & Dea Johnson and Ken Froboese
Middle (L to R): Shirley Sanders, Elizabeth Sadova, Bob Hummer, Majorie Crawford, Alma Hummer, and Sandy Sanders
Front: Douglas Gregory*

African violet is concerned we *will* make room! She gave me a picture of her violets and they are very pretty, all grown from leaves she ordered from us in past years.

Elizabeth wrote recently to say: "The violets are growing and soon I will be repotting them in small pots. The perlite and vermiculite you sent me helps a lot; it makes the soil more porous and light. This winter my husband promised to add one more shelf where I can place violets and one more additional lamp with artificial light. You know it is like a disease spreading and it is very hard to stop when you start your collection!"

I also have been writing to Irina Danilina who is a member of the same club. She is also a member of AVSA and is very appreciative of all materials that we can give to their club to help them grow better violets.

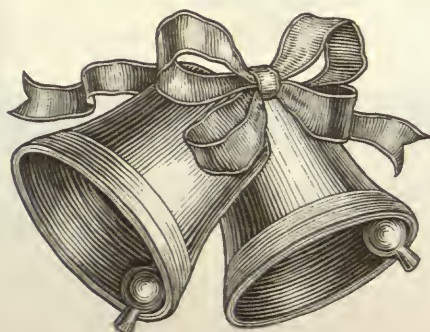
Irina was kind enough to send pictures of her plants, and said, "As a violet lover, maybe you are acquainted with some of my violet problems. It's very dry and hot in my flat, sometimes my violets get sick and die. I live in a single room flat and my collection occupies my kitchen and the window

of my only room. I know it's too small a space."

She also has violets at her work place but cannot have a controlled temperature there or at home. She says, "As a result, I cannot grow superior show plants." The pictures she sent show me that she is doing a very good job of raising violets under these conditions. They cannot get vermiculite and perlite and have been using sand in their soil. There has been some trouble with petiole rotting and the leaf staying green for some days after. The sand could be causing the soil to hold the water, and account for the rotting.

Irina sent me one of their violet magazines called, "In Violet World". She had an article in this issue and will be writing more. Of course it's in Russian and I can't read it, but the pictures are great! They are putting out a very informative magazine and writing about some of the people here in our violet world.

I hope this has given you a little insight into two of our friends from Moscow. It is such a blessing that it is now possible for the people in these two countries to get to know each other and share our love for the plant that brought us together.





Violet Growers



New Design Watch (sm)\$30.00
 New Design Watch (lg)\$30.00



AVSA Mugs\$10.00



AVSA Pin\$6.00
 Orders of 5 or more ...\$5.00 ea.



AVSA Computer Mouse Pads\$7.50
 Orders of 5 or more.....\$7.00 ea.



AVSA Letter Opener.....\$3.00
 Orders of 5 or more\$2.50 ea.

1998 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
floydll@earthlink.net

Welcome to AVSA's second "World's 25 Best African Violets" List. Sound pretentious? Maybe, but this list is from growers around the world sending in their lists of the 25 violets which were their favorites. Lists came from four continents and eight nations. This is a truly worldwide effort. Thank you to all who participated. Your comments on the new format will be appreciated.

Again this year we feature the new style of listing the Twenty-five Top Favorites. In addition, we have added the descriptions from AVSA's First Class computer database. Hopefully this will help growers in their selection of new and beautiful plants for their collections.

1. **Irish Flirt** (7577) 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
3. **Picasso** (6924) 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, plain/silver-green back. **Large**
4. **Tomahawk** (7269) 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. **Large**
5. **Precious Pink** (6025) 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. TL **variegated**, plain. **Semiminiature**
6. **Ode to Beauty** (7677) 02/28/92 (Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble medium coral star/thin raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
7. **Granger's Wonderland** (3419) 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. **Large**
8. **Happy Cricket** (5726) 04/29/84 (Hollada) Double lavender two-tone frilled. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Large**
9. **Melodie Kimi** (8100) 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
10. **Pixie Blue** (2598) 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/darker center. Plain, ovate. **Miniature trailer**
11. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**
12. **Milky Way Trail** (7169) 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature trailer**
13. **Little Pro** (6637) 06/11/87 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Dark green, quilted, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
14. **Ness' Satin Rose** (8144) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
15. **Lela Marie** (5668) 02/07/84 (I. Lineberg) Double light pink frilled. **Variegated**, pointed, ruffled. **Standard**
16. **International** (B. Johnson) Single-semidouble light pink pansy/wide raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, glossy. **Standard**
17. **Optimara Rose Quartz** (6969) 11/19/88 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink. Medium green, ovate, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Miniature**
18. **Rob's Sticky Wicket** (6467) 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**
19. **Splendiferous** (5813) 09/20/84 (S. Whitaker) Single pale pink star/red eye, wide white frilled edge. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
20. **Amazing Grace** (2688) 05/22/75 (Souls) Semidouble light pink frilled star. Ruffled. **Large**
21. **Nortex's Snowkist Haven** (6046) 09/12/85 (B. Johnson) Single white frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
22. **Marching Band** (8645) 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy/raspberry-red sparkle edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
23. **Powwow** (7708) 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** green and cream, plain. **Standard**
24. **Tiger** (3433) 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. **Variegated**. **Large**
25. **Favorite Child** (7676) 02/28/92 (Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, rays, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

African Violet

Nutrition

(and plants in general)

by Dave Neal, CEO Dyna-Gro™ Corp.

From a presentation given at the
1998 AVSA Convention in Sacramento, CA

Part 2 of a 2 part series

The Elements of Complete Plant Nutrition

The following is a brief summary of the roles of each of the essential and beneficial mineral nutrients, crucial to plant growth. Plants lacking any one of these elements will display growth abnormalities, symptoms of deficiency, and may not reproduce normally, if at all. Excessive levels of many of these essential elements can be toxic to plants as well.

Macronutrients

Nitrogen is a major component of proteins, hormones, chlorophyll, vitamins and enzymes essential for plant life. Nitrogen metabolism is a major factor in stem and leaf growth (vegetative growth). Too much can delay flowering and fruiting. This is why we use a low nitrogen formula to promote flowering. Nitrogen deficiencies can reduce yields, cause yellowing of the leaves and stunt growth.

Phosphorus is necessary for seed germination, photosynthesis, protein formation and almost all aspects of growth and metabolism in plants. It is essential for flower and fruit formation. Low pH (<4) results in phosphate being chemically locked up in organic soils. Note that peat based mixes tend to be acidic, particularly as they break down over time. This can lead to phosphorus deficiencies. Deficiency symptoms include purple stems and leaves and retarded maturity and growth. Yields of fruit and flowers are poor. Premature drop of fruit and flowers may often occur. Phosphorus must be applied close to the plant's roots for the plant to utilize it. Large applications of phosphorus without adequate levels of zinc can cause a zinc deficiency.

Potassium is necessary for formation of sugars, starches, carbohydrates, protein synthesis and cell division in roots and other parts of the plant. It helps to adjust water balance, improves stem rigidity and cold hardiness. It also enhances flavor and color in fruit and vegetable crops, increases the oil content of fruit and is important for leafy crops. Deficiencies result in low yields, mottled, spotted or curled leaves, scorched or burned look to leaves.

Sulfur is a structural component of amino acids, proteins, vitamins and enzymes and is an essential component of chlorophyll. It imparts flavor to many vegetables.

Deficiencies show as light green leaves. Sulfur is readily leached from soils and should be applied with a nutrient formula. Some water supplies may contain sulfur in the form of sulfates and sulfites.

Magnesium is a critical structural component of the chlorophyll molecule and is necessary for functioning of plant enzymes to produce carbohydrates, sugars and fats. It is used for fruit and nut formation and is essential for germination of seeds. Deficient plants appear chlorotic, show yellowing between veins of older leaves; leaves may droop. Magnesium is leached by watering and must be supplied when feeding. It can be applied as a foliar spray to correct deficiencies.

Calcium activates enzymes, is a structural component of cell walls, influences water movement in cells and is necessary for cell growth and division. Some plants must have calcium to take up nitrogen and other minerals. Calcium is easily leached. Calcium, once deposited in plant tissue, is immobile (non-translocatable) so there must be a constant supply for growth. Deficiency causes stunting of new growth in stems, flowers and roots. Symptoms range from distorted new growth to black spots on leaves and fruit. Yellow leaf margins may also appear.

Micronutrients

Iron is necessary for many enzyme functions and as a catalyst for the synthesis of chlorophyll. It is essential for the young growing parts of plants. Deficiency symptoms include pale leaf color of young leaves followed by yellowing of leaves and large veins. Iron is lost by leaching and is held in the lower portions of the soil structure. Under conditions of high pH (alkaline soils) iron is rendered unavailable to plants. When soils are alkaline, iron may be abundant but unavailable. Application of an acidic nutrient formula containing iron chelates, held in soluble form, should correct the problem.

Manganese is involved in enzyme activity for photosynthesis, respiration, and nitrogen metabolism. Deficiency in young leaves may show a network of green veins on a light green background similar to an iron deficiency. In the advanced stages, the light green parts become white, and leaves are shed. Brownish, black or grayish spots may appear next to the veins. In neutral or alkaline soils, plants often show deficiency symptoms. In highly acidic soils, manganese may be available in toxic levels.

Zinc is a component of enzymes or a functional cofactor of a large number of enzymes including auxins (plant growth hormones). It is essential to carbohydrate metabolism, protein synthesis and internodal elongation (stem growth). Deficient plants have mottled leaves with irregular chlorotic areas. Zinc deficiency leads to iron deficiency causing similar symptoms. Deficiency occurs on eroded soils and is least available at a pH range of 5.5 - 7.0.

Lowering the pH can render zinc more available to the point of toxicity.

Copper is concentrated in roots of plants and plays a part in nitrogen metabolism. It is a component of several enzymes and may be part of the enzyme systems that use carbohydrates and proteins. Deficiencies cause die back of the shoot tips, and terminal leaves develop brown spots. Copper is bound tightly in organic matter and may be deficient in highly organic soils. It is not readily lost from soil but may often be unavailable. Too much copper can be toxic to plants.

Molybdenum is a structural component of the enzyme that reduces nitrates to ammonia. Without it, the synthesis of proteins is blocked and plant growth ceases. Root nodule (nitrogen fixing) bacteria also require molybdenum. Seeds may not form completely, and nitrogen deficiency may occur if plants are lacking molybdenum. Deficiency signs are pale green leaves with rolled or cupped edges.

Chlorine is involved in osmosis, (movement of water or solutes in cells), the ionic balance necessary for plants to take up mineral elements and in photosynthesis. Deficiency symptoms include wilting, stubby roots, chlorosis (yellowing) and bronzing. Odors in some plants may be decreased. Chloride (Cl⁻), the ionic form of chlorine which plants use, is usually found in soluble forms and is lost by leaching. Some plants may show signs of toxicity if levels are too high. Note: molecular chlorine (Cl₂), often used to kill microorganisms in our drinking water, can be toxic to plants.

Nickel is the most recent addition to the list of essential trace elements for plants. It is required for the enzyme urease, which some plants use to break down urea into usable forms of nitrogen. Nickel is required as a catalyst for iron absorption. Seeds need nickel in order to germinate. Plants grown without additional nickel will gradually reach a deficient level at about the time they mature and begin reproductive growth. If nickel is deficient, plants may fail to produce viable seeds.

Sodium is involved in osmotic (water movement) and ionic balance in plants.

Cobalt is required for nitrogen fixation in legumes and in root nodules of nonlegumes. The demand for cobalt is much higher for nitrogen fixation than for ammonium nutrition. Deficient levels could result in nitrogen deficiency symptoms.

Silicon is found as a component of cell walls. Plants with supplies of soluble silicon produce stronger, tougher cell walls creating a mechanical barrier to the mouth parts of piercing and sucking insects. Silicon significantly enhances plant heat, drought and cold tolerance. Foliar sprays of silicon have also shown benefits reducing populations of aphids on field crops. Research has shown that silicon is deposited by the plants at the site of fungal infec-

tion to combat the penetration of cell walls by the attacking fungal hyphae. Improved leave erectness, stem strength and prevention or depression of iron and manganese toxicity have all been noted as resulting from supplying the plant with soluble silicon. Silicon is known to be essential to members of the poaceae or grass family, but has shown benefits to a wide variety of plants.

Fertilizers are, by definition, intended to be used in soil to increase the fertility of that soil. Since most of you grow African violets in soilless mixes, mere fertilizer with N-P-K and three or four trace elements is not going to provide complete nutrition for your plants.

Let's look at the nutritional requirements of African violets, specifically. See the table on page 44. (Nutritional Requirements of African Violets)

Note the order of importance of the six macronutrients: potassium, nitrogen, calcium, magnesium, sulfur and phosphorus. How many of you have used a fertilizer with a phosphorus number of 40 or 50? You risk phosphate toxicity with repeated use of this amount of phosphorus since the plant cannot begin to use more than a small portion of this nutrient. I wish that I could tell you the optimum levels of each of these elements. However, the information in this table is the most complete analysis of African violet nutritional requirements that I could locate in my research for this article. The authors of the text from which this was taken actually presented three columns: insufficient, sufficient and excessive. The range of sufficient levels is rather broad. Accordingly, we do not know what level is optimum.

One step that a number of orchid growers have taken is to take leaf samples from a number of apparently healthy orchids and have analyses done to determine the level of each essential element in them. For one group, this was done by one of the growers who worked in a lab and had access to the analytical equipment necessary to perform the work. While even these healthy plants had a rather wide range of levels of each of the elements, they did remain roughly proportional and agreed in order of elemental concentrations within the plants from each of the various participants.

If six to eight violet growers could submit leaf tissue to an analytical lab for analysis, we might be able to come up with some more useful information regarding optimum levels of nutrients. This information might be even more useful if all of the sampled plants were judged to be of superior characteristics by accredited African violet judges.

The Nutrition Solution*

Another writer in the November-December issue of the African Violet Magazine cites the practice of rotating or mixing fertilizers "to ensure their plants are getting complete nutrition." For this practice to be effective, one must assume that between them, the various fertilizers being

used are "complete." This assumption could be a dangerous one if they are not. Typical fertilizers contain N-P-K but no calcium, magnesium or sulphur. Moreover, they may have 4 or 5 of the 10 essential trace elements but not all 10. Most importantly, they all have the same 4 or 5: iron, manganese, copper, zinc, and occasionally, molybdenum. So, no matter how many different combinations of these elements you would get from mixing fertilizers, you still do not end up with the other essential elements.

The good news is that Dyna-Gro™, The Nutrition Solution®, contains all of these essential elements in an easy to use liquid concentrate. When coupled with Pro-TeKt®, The Silicon Solution®, Dyna-Gro™ formulae provide plants with every element needed for complete nutrition and optimum growth. For more information about Dyna-Gro™ nutrients see our ad in this magazine, call us at 800-Dyna-Gro, see our web site at Dyna-Gro.com or e-mail us at info@Dyna-Gro.com.

What Do the Numbers on the Label Mean?

These numbers stand for the percentages by weight in the package of elemental nitrogen - N, molecular phosphorus expressed as phosphate (P₂O₅), and molecular potassium expressed as potash (K₂O). This means that a 20-20-20 formula is actually 20% elemental nitrogen, 8.7% elemental phosphorus and 16.6% elemental

potassium by weight.

In the case of phosphorus (P₂O₅), the percentage of elemental phosphorus can be calculated by a fraction, the numerator of which is the atomic weight of 2 phosphorus atoms (2 x 31) and the denominator of which is the sum of the atomic weights of 2 phosphorus atoms and 5 oxygen atoms (2 x 31)+(5 x 16) or 61/141 = 43.6%. By a similar calculation, we can see that elemental potassium is actually only 83% of the potash. [Since the number on the label represents the percentage by weight of K₂O, elemental potassium is calculated by the fraction 39/(2 x 39)+16 83%]. This distinction is important when you are attempting to utilize the numbers on the fertilizer label to meet the nutritional requirements of your plants.

All other elements are expressed as a percentage by weight of the elemental form of the element whether the element is part of a larger molecule or not. For example the 2% calcium in Dyna-Gro's complete nutrition formulae is 2% elemental calcium by weight. Similarly, though trace elements such as iron, copper, manganese and zinc are usually present as part of a larger chelate molecule to keep them in solution and hence available to the plant, the amount on the label represents the percentage by weight of only the trace element itself and not the accompanying EDTA chelate.

Nutritional Requirements of African Violets (*Saintpaulia ionantha*)

Macronutrients		Micronutrients	
Element	Sufficient (%)		
Element	Sufficient (ppm)		
Potassium - K	3.00-6.50	Iron - Fe	50-200
Nitrogen - N	3.00-6.00	Manganese - Mn	40-200
Calcium - Ca	1.00-2.00	Zinc - Zn	25-200
Magnesium - Mg	0.35-0.75	Boron - B	25-75
Sulphur - S	0.30-0.70	Copper - Cu	8-35
Phosphorus - P	0.30-0.70	Chlorine - Cl	?
Silicon-Si	?	Sodium-Na	?
Carbon-C		Molybdenum-Mo	?
Oxygen-O		Nickel-Ni	?
Hydrogen-H		Cobalt-Co	?

Based upon tissue analysis of most recent fully developed leaf Plant Analysis Handbook, 2nd Ed.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 SUN 6:27 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
2 MON	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 TUE 6:12 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
4 WED	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 12:18 am
5 THU 5:11 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
6 FRI	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
7 SAT 5:59 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 SUN	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 MON 9:33 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 7:29 pm
11 WED 5:38 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
12 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
13 FRI	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
14 SAT 4:58 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
15 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
16 MON 5:42 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 WED	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 11:27 pm
19 THU 6:13 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
20 FRI	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
21 SAT 5:46 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
22 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
23 MON	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
24 TUE 3:43 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
25 WED	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
26 THU 11:14 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:22 pm
27 FRI	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
28 SAT 3:34 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
29 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
30 MON 4:52 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

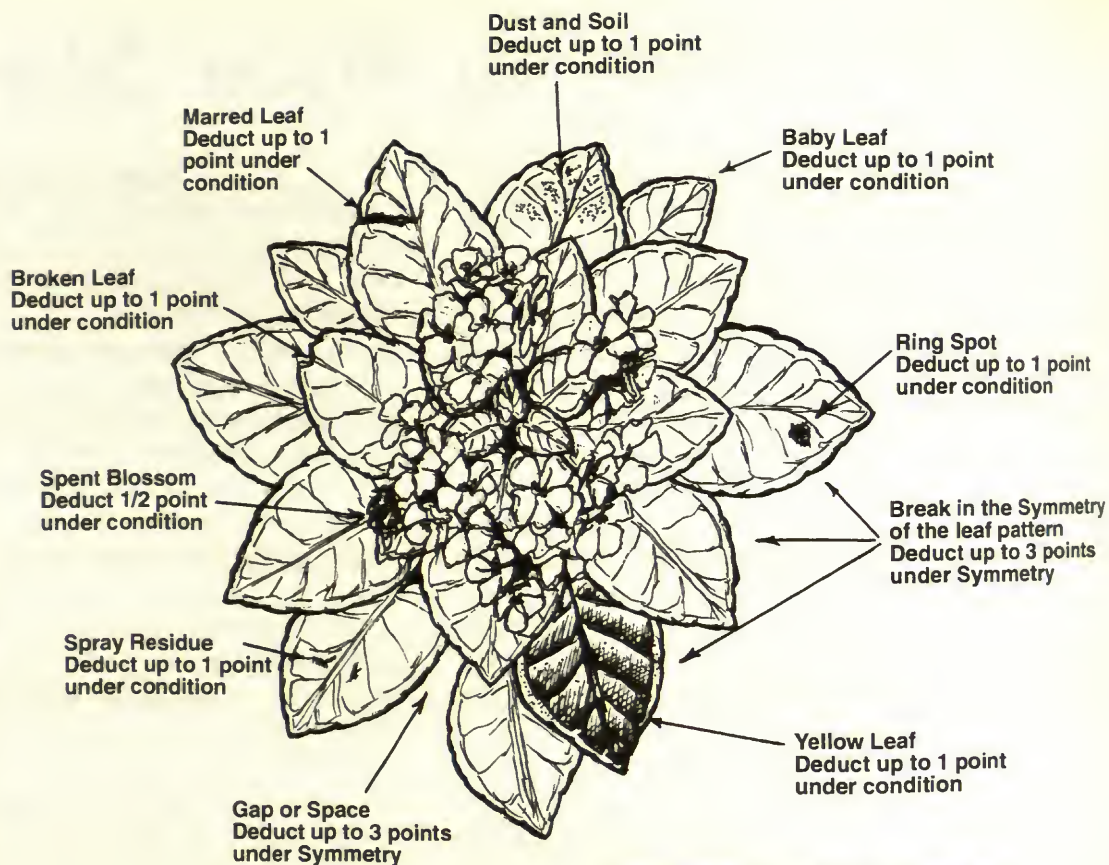
December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 WED 4:50 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
3 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 10:20 am
4 FRI 4:28 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
5 SAT	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 SUN 6:56 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
7 MON	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 TUE	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 WED 1:22 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
10 THU	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 12:54 pm
11 FRI 11:44 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
12 SAT	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
13 SUN	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
14 MON 12:17	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 TUE	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 WED 12:47 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
17 THU	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
18 FRI 11:55 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	New 5:42 pm
19 SAT	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
20 SUN	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
21 MON 9:17 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
22 TUE	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
23 WED 4:45 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 THU	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 FRI 10:04 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
26 SAT	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:46 am
27 SUN	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 MON 1:05 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 TUE	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 WED 2:22 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
31 THU	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



Symmetry - the shape of the plant
Condition - cultural aspect of the plant at the time it is judged



Plant not centered in pot
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Neck
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Over potted
Deduct up to 3 points under condition



Under potted
Deduct up to 3 points under condition

Temperature, Humidity, Air Circulation

by Monte Watler
Canada

Temperature - Generally speaking, the ideal temperature for growing indoor plants is 65°F to 80°F. Since most indoor plants are indigenous to the tropics it is natural that we try to provide them with an environment as close to their natural habitat as feasible. But this is not always possible with the gesneriad family. They have been acquired from varied climactic areas of the globe and require various conditions for growing. So, instead of adjusting our conditions to suit an assorted collection of plants we must select plants that are happy with our existing conditions. While many are adaptable and will adjust to unaccustomed conditions, it is improbable that one would be successful in growing an alpine gesneriad such as *Ramonda* in close proximity with an *Episcia* which is a tropical, heat-loving species.

It is recommended, as beginners, that you learn as much as possible about your plants and try to afford them the necessary requirements. While most indoor plants will tolerate, and some actually benefit from a slight change in temperature it is advisable to maintain an even temperature. A sudden change, either hot or cold, can be detrimental to your plants. If, for comfort or economical reasons you find it necessary to reduce your thermostat at night this may result in an unacceptable low temperature in the plant room. You can counteract this by running your plant lights at night and enclosing your plant stands in a clear plastic wrap. This will keep the temperature at a level which may not adversely effect your plants.

Humidity - is a must for most plants and quite often one of the more difficult conditions to provide. In winter our central heating systems produce dry air and in summer, although of lesser consequence, our air conditioning extracts moisture from the air. Normally we can add humidity by adding a thermostatically controlled humidifier to the furnace but this is usually set at 40% for house comfort while plants require the minimum of 60%. However, there are ways of increasing the humidity in the plant room without affecting the other areas of the house.

Following are some ways to increase humidity:

- (1) Set plants on trays or individual saucers of pebbles with water below the top level of the pebbles. Water will

evaporate and rise providing extra humidity.

- (2) Place a humidifier in the room. An inexpensive vaporizer from the pharmacy can be quite effective.
- (3) Jars of water placed among the plants on the plant shelf will also increase the humidity.
- (4) If you have deep plant trays, cover them with egg grating as a base on which to place your plants. Fill the tray with water which will evaporate and increase the humidity.
- (5) Cover your plants with a clear plastic sheet. This will increase the temperature as well as contain the moisture which is emitted by the plants.

Misting - is another means of increasing humidity, but one which I do not find very effective. Perhaps, if automatic misting could be arranged where misting took place at regular intervals it would be effective, but when it is done on an occasional basis the benefit is hardly worth the effort. Should you decide to mist your plants make sure that the water is as hot as possible. Cold water will damage the leaves and if your water is lukewarm to start with it will be cold by the time it passes through the air and reaches the plant.

Most gesneriads dislike dry air and will not hesitate in showing their displeasure; leaves will turn yellow and fall, leaf tips will dry out and become parched, the development of growth and blossoms will be affected and bud blasting will occur.

Air circulation - Plants should never be exposed to drafts or cold air blowing directly on them. If placed in an area where there is static air, it is necessary to have some air circulating. This can be provided by installing a small fan near the light garden, but not where the air will blow directly on the plants. Lack of ventilation and poor air movement may result in mildew as well as crown rot on some plants. *Saintpaulia*, *Sinningia*, and *Episcia* are some of the species that are susceptible to crown rot. Good ventilation will also help to provide a more even temperature in the plant room.

*Reprinted with permission from Chatter,
Journal of the AVS of Canada*

FANTASIES AND OTHER COLOR CHANGES

by Jean Hayston • Australia

Quite frequently members request plantlets or leaves of plants they have seen in flower. Then, having grown their plantlet or leaf on to the flowering stage they find it is something different. The immediate reaction is that they have been given an incorrectly named plant or leaf and disappointment and frustration occur.

However, it must be remembered that all our violets, except the species, are hybrids and therefore have in their make-up a grouping of color combinations. From time to time plants will revert or mutate to something old or something new. Indeed, this is how many of our varieties have come into being.

Some plants in particular are prone to change. Fantasies can do anything; sometimes they fail to have fantasy flowers, sometimes they come in bicolors, sometimes you get

two completely different colors on one plant. 'Chiffon Print' usually comes true for me, although I have had on occasions a plain blue flower. 'Paisley Print', however, more often fails to produce a fantasy flowers than not, for me. I have four distinct plants of one variety, all of them most attractive and worth growing and continuing true to the new color if grown from a side shoot.

So if you secure a leaf or plantlet and find it turns out completely different to what you asked for, don't blame the supplier. It is in the nature of things that this can happen and sometimes the result can be surprising and beautiful.

Reprinted with permission from *The African Violet*, publication of the AV Association of Australia, Inc.



Basics

From a program given by Shirley Nelson

Grooming Your Plants:

- Equipment for grooming: small cutting tool, alcohol to disinfect cutting tool, soft brush, dull pencil (for disbudding).
- Start when the plant is young. Remove immature or unnecessary leaves, unhealthy buds and stems.
- Groom your plants whether growing for enjoyment or show.
- Check your plants frequently for plantlets (suckers). They can distort the symmetry. Remove spent blossoms.
- When needed, wash the foliage with tepid water, tipping the plant and allowing the water to flow over the leaves which you are supporting with your hand. Pat carefully with a sponge or paper towel. Never use tissue - it leaves white fuzz on the leaves. Sometimes a very *gentle* brushing will remove soil or dust.

Basics of Showing:

- Try showing a plant for the fun of it.
- Select a balanced specimen that has good blooming potential. When a plant is 4" to 6" in diameter, let it bloom. Select plants that hold their blossoms nicely and show promise for producing 25 open flowers by show time.
- Repot your show plants every 3 months and remove leaves necessary to balance the plant.
- Disbud until 8 to 10 weeks before the show.
- Remember the following tips from a commercial grower for achieving larger leaves:
 1. Pot in a 1/2" smaller pot than normally.
 2. Remove a leaf or two every month.
 3. Alternate fertilizers, i.e. 20-20-20, 12-36-14 or 15-30-15

Reprinted with permission from *The 'Bloomin' Violet*, publication of the Cedar Valley Violet Club, IA

Overwatering is probably the most common way to "kill" an African violet. If a plant looks droopy, it may be due to too much water, rather than too little. Your plant needs watering if the pot feels light when you pick it up or if the top soil is dry to the touch. If you neglect to water and the plant dries out, treat it like a "lost" traveler in the desert by giving it small "sips" of plain water about an hour apart until it perks up. Never fertilize a dry plant. On average, violets should be watered about once a week.



Wick Watering: Thread a wick of acrylic yarn, nylon cord or a narrow piece of nylon stocking through one of the bottom holes when potting the plant. Lay the wick across the pot, but beneath the surface and near the base of the root ball. The wick should hang out of the pot about 3". Use an empty container (margarine tub, etc.), cut a hole in the top of the container lid and thread the wick through the hole to hang down into the fertilized water. Check weekly to be sure the plant has

not used all the water. Wick should be thoroughly wet to before it goes into the container.

Special Pots: Oyama and two-piece ceramic flare pots or other reservoir type pots should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Capillary Matting: Line a tray with an old foam-type acrylic blanket and then flood the tray. Set the pots on top, being sure they make good contact. Soil mix must be very light for this type of watering.

With all these watering methods, once a month the fertilizer salts should be "flushed out" by pouring plain water through the plant from the top. Do not let the plant sit in the "run-off." If you use tap water for your violets, draw your supply in advance and let it sit overnight, so that the chlorine can escape.

Methods of Watering:

Top Watering: To each gallon of tepid water, add 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer. Use a long-spout watering can so you can keep the water away from the crown. Water will collect in the saucer. Do not let plants stand in the water overnight – violets do NOT like cold, wet feet!

Bottom Watering: Put about 1/4 inch of the fertilized water into the violet's saucer. If the plant immediately sucks it up, repeat the process. Do not leave water in the saucer overnight.

Texas Style: Plants potted "Texas Style" have about 1-1/2 inches of perlite in the bottom of the pot. The perlite will draw the water up into the pot and to the fine root system. Water from the bottom, 1/4 inch at a time. The saucer should be about 2 inches larger in diameter than the pot.

Reprinted with permission from
Ye Bay Stater, publication of Bay State AVS

SOME THOUGHTS ON "VIOLET OVERLOAD"

by Steve Covolo • Chicago, IL

The number of violets a person owns is such a personal thing. Some people own hundreds and some only one. Most fall somewhere in the middle. I personally will only own what I can properly care for. A large collection can become overwhelming, not to mention a lot of work. I try to keep my collection under control, not allowing my hobby to control me.

I grow on a total of seven shelves with no plans to expand. I can give each plant excellent care and have a beautiful collection of many fine cultivars that grow well for me. I truly believe in the old rule of "quality, not quantity". I would prefer to have one excellent violet than many that suffer from lack of attention. Excellent does not mean "show quality", but a healthy plant that looks good. Own as many violets as *you* feel comfortable with.

The African violet world offers so much. Standards, small ones and trailers in all sizes, or all their related cousins. With such a vast selection to choose from, you can wake up one day and have violets everywhere. This is what I call

"Violet Overload". Here are the guidelines I use to keep my collection in check.

I grow what I like. I shop and compare and play the "numbers game", taking advantage of the "Best Variety List", "Tally Time" and "And the winners are..." lists. Grow the violets *you* like. This judgment can be determined by flower color, flower style, leaf color, leaf shape and let's not forget type and size of plants. You'll care for your favorite plants first. What if your collection only contained your favorite plants?

Only grow what is appealing to *your* eye. Everyone sees things differently, so please yourself. Decide if this plant has "show potential" or if you simply enjoy the plant for its color, style or nostalgic qualities.

By growing what *you* like, by shopping and comparing the cultivars and playing the "numbers game", you should be able to have a beautiful collection of violets that you'll truly enjoy caring for. This will also bring you pride, along with well-cared for violets.

GROWING AND SHOWING African Violets

by Byron Borck • Santa Rosa, CA

"SALT THE OATS"

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." This statement seems so true for many situations from teaching children to growing violets. In my career as an educator I learned a more important ending for my first sentence. If you want a horse to drink, you can "salt the oats". With violets too, we need to "salt the oats" with some varieties in order to get them to grow properly.

Violets are grown for their ornamental beauty and give satisfaction to the grower when they come into full bloom. The goal of the grower is to produce a large head of blossoms. In the past, if a variety would not "perform" to my satisfaction, I would throw it away or give it away. Now I'm learning to patiently "salt the oats" and watch the results.

When a plant is not what you think it should be, you may want to try one of the following "salty" suggestions.

LIGHT: We all know the amount of light is the most critical factor in getting a plant to bloom. If a plant is in the right location, it seems to produce bloom after bloom. I am finding that some varieties do better closer to my fixtures and some farther away.

When grown under lights, plants with long petioles or leaves that reach upward may grow better closer to the light or if you increase the hours the lights are on. Plants with short petioles, blossoms hiding under the leaves, leaves that are congested or crowded in the crown, or leaves that hug the pot may need to be moved farther away from the light.

I have also found that varieties from a few hybridizers do very well in lower light. After I moved the Optimara, Rhapsodie, Melody, and Volkmann varieties to the end of the lighted shelves, the crowns were not as tight and the blossoms came out from under the leaves. Some of these grow well in natural light. Many yellow varieties also do better for me when they are farther from the light.

FERTILIZER: With plant varieties being as different as people, I have long wondered about feeding them all with the same fertilizer each time I water. Checking the labels on fertilizer containers may surprise you. Every one seems to be a little different as to the contents or where the contents came from.

The minor elements in a fertilizer are very important to assure proper growth. Check to make sure your fertilizer has

the minor elements.

Fertilizer made from animal products (urea) can build up in the soil. These need to be leached out from time to time.

I am finding products made from sea kelp; not made from urea, and fish emulsion (if you can stand the smell) to be very beneficial to my plants. The plants seem to be shinier, darker in color, and the blossoms, to be vibrant.

SOIL: If I have a plant that hasn't bloomed in awhile or doesn't seem to be growing, I repot it in a clean pot with fresh soil. Many times the pH has changed or the soil has soured for some unknown reason. When plants are watered, they should have an earthy smell.

PESTS: Those little sucking creatures slowly drain the life out of blossoms and some out of the plant itself. Every grower I know has fought the battle with them and with persistence has WON!

Thrips damage is easy to see with the pollen being spilled on the blossom petals. However, if a plant just isn't growing well, it may have another unwelcome creature living in the soil.

Pesticide use can also change the soil's pH. You are adding chemicals to the soil. Once you win the battle, repot it in fresh, clean soil.

TEMPERATURE: I often hear from growers that their plants do not seem to grow much during the winter. "Leaves are smaller and tight, petioles seem shorter, plants are stunted, and just don't look happy."

With newborn kittens in my home last winter the thermostat was on 65 degrees at night. My plants didn't slow down. They kept growing.

Violets like the same temperatures as people.

In teaching I also learned that you can't "change a child", but you can change "how" you teach the child. I have applied this lesson also to growing. If a plant won't grow the way I think it should, I try another way to motivate it - by "salting its oats".

Reprinted with permission from the
California Council News, joint publication of the
Northern and Southern CA AV Councils

African Violet Ornaments

Close your eyes and imagine lovely African violets on your Christmas tree or proudly displayed in your home during the holiday season. In December, two beautiful Christmas ornaments featuring outstanding African violets from the 1998 AVSA convention show will be available from the AVSA office.

I am sure everyone remembers the lovely violets that were the Best in Show and the Best New Introduction in Sacramento. They were 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy,' exhibited by Bev Promersberger, and 'Ms. Smartypants,' hybridized and exhibited by Sidney Sorano.

The ornament price will be less than \$20.00. An acrylic ornament stand will also be available for under \$5.00.

Make a note on your calendar to contact the AVSA office sometime in early December at 1-800-770-AVSA or by E-mail at <avsa@avsa.org>. Pictures of the ornaments and on-line ordering information will also be added to the AVSA web site.

Mary Walbrick, Ways & Means Committee Chairman

AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the formation and guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship. Application instructions will appear in the January/February 1999 AVM.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program, graduate program, in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.

- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 1998 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund. The first award will be for the fall of 1999.

Coming Events



November 7 & 8 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council
Annual Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Joseph F. Haggerty Center
51 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Nov 7 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Carol Ann Burrell
(914) 896 - 8605

November 12 - 14 - MARYLAND

Mid-Atlantic AVS
Convention and Show
Hosted by Baltimore AVC
BWI Sheraton Hotel
Baltimore-Washington
International Airport
Baltimore, MD
Info: Ken Barbi
(410) 757 - 5044

November 7 & 8 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 8 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Grace McCurnin
(913) 722 - 4085

January 8 - 10 - MISSOURI

9th Annual
St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center
701 Convention Plaza
St Louis, MO
Info: (314) 997-3631

November 6 & 7 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Sale
Tarrytown Mall
Bypass 301 & Hwy. 64
Rocky Mount, NC
Both days: 10am - 7pm
Info: Lucille Prutsman
(919) 459 - 3722

Saintpaulia's

FAMILY

by Joan Halford
South Africa



Wild plants are named according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). Plants that arise and are maintained in cultivation are given cultivar (non Latin) names governed by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

Plants are grouped in families which are further sub-divided into genus, species and variety or cultivar for cultivated plants. According to the ICBN, plants have a two-part Latin technical name which includes genus and species. The genus part of the name designates the general type of plant being considered. The species part of the name may be a descriptive term.

Family

A plant family is an assemblage of genera (plural for genus) closely related through similarity of the arrangement of structural characteristics, mainly in flower parts.

The family to which the *Saintpaulia* belongs is named GESNERIACEAE (gez or jesnair-ee-ay-see-ee). It is a large family of mostly topical herbs containing over 120 genera. People who grow them refer to them as "gesneriads".

The general characteristics which are typical and distinguish the GESNERIACEAE are:

- leaves are simple, having only one blade to the main leafstalk;
- flowers have a tubular calyx, 5-parted or lobed; the corolla is tubular, often with a considerable tube, the five lobes are usually unequal and often definitely two-lipped and strikingly irregular;
- hairs are present and often abundant on stems, leaves and flowers.

Some of the plants in this family which are cultivated besides the *Saintpaulia* (African violet), are: *Achimenes*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Chirita*, *Codonanthe*, *Columnea*, *Episcia*, *Gesneria*, *Kohleria*, *Nautilocalyx*, *Nematanthus*, *Petrocosmea*, *Sinningia*, *Smithiantha* and *Streptocarpus*. These are the plants referred to as "kissing cousins" of the African violet.

Genus

The first botanical sub-division of the family is into genera. Each of these subdivisions is a genus and becomes the first part of the two-part Latin name which designates the specific plant. The first letter of the genus name is always capitalized. In texts the name is written in full the first time it is used, but may be abbreviated thereafter. The abbreviation "S" could mean *Saintpaulia*, *Sinningia* or *Streptocarpus*, depending on the reference which precedes the abbreviation. (The abbreviation for species is sp. (singular) or spp. (plural).

The African violet's genus name is *Saintpaulia*.

Species

The second part of the two-part technical name of a plant is a descriptive term defining the species which is a sub-division of a genus. The word species is used both as singular and plural. The species name is not capitalized. In texts it is written in italics or underlined.

Variety/cultivar

Variety is a botanical term for a closely related group of plants which make up a species. In the ICBN, the natural or botanical variety is the fourth sub-division of the plant family. In the genus *Saintpaulia*, some natural varieties have been classified. These have been found growing wild, are similar to the species under which they are classified and are not different enough to rate separate classification as a different species. These names are written in italics preceded by var. without capital letters. The African violet varieties are *S. magungensis* var. *minima* and *S. pendula* var. *kizarae*.



Cultivar is the proper term for a named horticultural variety as distinguished from a natural variety. The terms cultivar and variety are exact equivalents. Cultivars are horticultural mutations, plants improved by selection and hybrids named and distributed commercially.

Reprinted from The Transvaal African Violet Society
club publication, South Africa

Tender Handling

by Hal McKain
Lamoni, IA

The exquisite blossom tossed light sparklers off its white petals. The green leaves looked strong holding up the bright blooms.

The year is up. Just 12 months ago this African violet was just one leaf in water. Now after about 60 "tender handlings" it is ready to be given away.

I did not know if I wanted to take it to work today to give it away. So, I followed the rule I had set up, "When tempted to do a good deed, just do it."

I wondered if I should give away this particularly beautiful plant. I followed the same rule. Just do it.

At work I set the African violet on my desk and turned on the lamp to display it. It was a beauty to behold.

A young man who also works part time at Graceland College walked up to me. I knew he was married and had a young daughter who had health problems. I said "Johnny, I want you to take this flower home for your wife. I want you to have it." He said, "Are you kidding?" "No," I told him, "you are my friend. I raise these as a hobby and I want you to have it." He said, "I feel like crying."

It flashed through my mind, somewhat surprising me, how much this meant to him. It really made me feel good that a simple hobby could bring so much joy to a young father and surely his family.

For certain, it was worth the 60 "tender handlings."



African violet insurance? PLANT THAT SUCKER!

by Nadine Parsons • La Crescenta, CA

Look at your plant closely. Be sure that it is healthy and free of insects. Check to see if the plant has a "sucker". (A sucker is the beginning of a new plant. It can form in the soil near the base of the plant or between the stems or axils of the plant.) This can be used to start a new plant that will grow and flower faster than one propagated from a leaf.

Removing the sucker can sometimes be a little tricky. Use a "Sucker Plucker", sharp pencil, nut pick, or similar tool. If the sucker is near the base of the plant, cut straight down and around the sucker and it will come loose. Sometimes it may have a few little roots.

If the sucker is growing in an axil of the plant, this can be a little trickier. Take your time. Using one of the above tools, cut around the sucker, pressing against the main stem of the plant until it comes loose. (Experience is the best teacher!)

Now that you have completed the hardest part, let the little sucker dry out for a few minutes while you prepare a small pot to put it in. Write the name of the plant and the date on the pot with a permanent ink pen. If you do not like

to write directly on the pot, use freezer tape.

Mix together 2 parts vermiculite, 1 part perlite, and about 1/4 part horticultural charcoal. Dampen with water which has had B-1 added to it (1 teaspoon to a quart of water). You can have this starter mix ready beforehand. Fill the pot with damp starter mix, pressing firmly. With a pencil, make a shallow indentation or hole in the mix. Place the sucker into it and press firmly around it. Use plastic toothpicks to hold it firmly so that it makes good contact with the soil. Place the pot into a baggie and tie with a wire twist. Place in good light for 2 or 3 weeks. Check on it during this time to see that it is kept slightly damp. Do not overwater! Water only when necessary. When the plant is large enough (leaves will extend over the edge of the pot) transfer to a larger pot.

If your original plant should succumb or otherwise go downhill, you will have taken steps to insure your plant, to replace the original.

Reprinted with permission from the CA Council News

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Cathy Cornibe - Santa Cruz, CA

- ***Miss Santa Cruz** (8729) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white edge, variable darker tips. **Variegated** green, white and pink. **Standard**
- ***San Mateo** (8730) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Single semidouble purple two-tone frilled pansy/darker shading at tips, variable darker purple-green edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink, ruffled. **Standard**
- ***San Mateo Blues** (8731) 6/3/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double lavender-blue two-tone frilled large/variable white markings, thin white-green and/or purple edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink. **Standard**

.....

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

- ***Aca's Red Ember** (8732) 6/29/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red sticktite pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- ***Fanny Sue** (8733) 6/29/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble blue two-tone star. **Variegated** green, pink and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**

.....

Ralph Robinson - Naples, NY

- ***Rob's Bamboozle** (8734) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright rose-pink pansy. Dark green, ovate, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Fuzzy Navel** (8735) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Double peach-pink star. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Itty Bitty** (8736) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble bright pink bell. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**

- ***Rob's Oopsie Daisy** (8737) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Double chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe. **Crown variegated** medium green and white. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Outer Orbit** (8738) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark blue pansy/bright pink spots, white edge. **Variegated** dark green and white, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Rinky Dink** (8739) 7/25/98 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark burgundy-red pansy. Dark green, pointed, glossy/red back. **Miniature**

.....

Pat Hancock - West Chester, OH

- ***Buckeye Ballerina** (8740) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Double lavender-pink frilled/purple fantasy; variable purple edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- ***Buckeye Calico** (8741) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Cherry Pink** (8742) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble bright mauve-pink ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Cherry Topping** (8743) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Single-semidouble bright pink sticktite pansy/cherry frilled edge. **Variegated** black-green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Cosmic Rays** (8744) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. **Variegated** medium green, cream and pink, plain, hairy, wavy/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler** (8745) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled pansy/variable raspberry fantasy; raspberry edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**
- ***Buckeye Cranberry Swirl** (8746) 7/27/98 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light cranberry ruffled star/dark cranberry and purple fantasy; variable raspberry edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**

REGISTRATION CHANGE (Description change **boldfaced**)

- Night Vision** (8724) - change foliage description to **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, pebbled, glossy, wavy/red back.



Exploring Houston, Texas 1999 AVSA Convention

April 4-11, 1999

by Connie Leifeste
Woodway, TX

EXPLORING HOUSTON

There are some great tours offered for the Houston convention, places of interest to suit a variety of tastes.

Informational brochures and location maps will be available for you at the Information Table at the Convention. If you elect to see Houston on your own, here are some suggestions:

NORTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

If you like antiques, the MENIL MUSEUM and BYZANTINE FRESCO CHAPEL on the northwest corner of St. Thomas University are good places to start. The museum began in 1987 from the private collection of Houstonians John and Dominique de Menil. The Byzantine Fresco Chapel, is adjacent to the museum at Yupon and Branard. It houses the only intact Byzantine frescoes in the western hemisphere. The story of how the frescoes came to Houston is an interesting one and surely one you do not want to miss. Hours for both the Museum and Chapel are: Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. There are no admissions. Donations, however, are accepted.

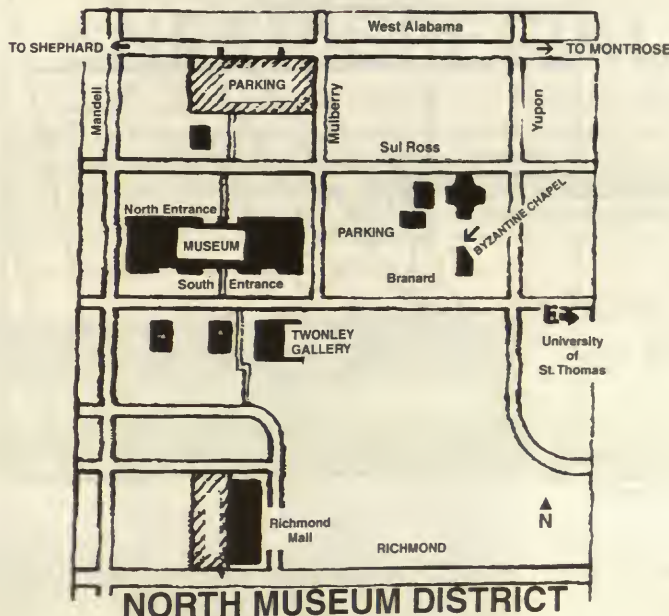
Leaving the Museum and Chapel, head north on Montrose to lower Westheimer. In a area along Westheimer from River Oaks to Montrose, ANTIQUE SHOPS of all sizes and sorts line the street; certainly a wonderful place to browse or grab some lunch. Then, head west on Westheimer again; turn right on River Oaks Boulevard and view the FINE, OLD HOMES of Houston. You may return to the hotel by following River Oaks to Westheimer, there turn right and proceed about eleven miles to the area of the hotel.

SOUTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

You have many choices in this area from south of US 59 to Loop 610 South. The HOUSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, located at 1001 Bissonnet, houses a collection representing many periods and frequently has special exhibits. Free parking is located across the street from the museum. Hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is an admission on these days. On Thursdays, however, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, admission is free.

HERMANN PARK holds many attractions. The Houston Garden Center is a pleasant location for a stroll through the Rose or Japanese Gardens. There is an admission for the Japanese Gardens. The Zoo and Golf Course are located toward the back of the park's drive on the extreme south side. Both have admissions. The HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE contains, among many other attractions, an extensive exhibit, the state's development of the energy industry. Hours for the Museum are: Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There is an admission.

Exiting Hermann Park, to the west at 6100 South Main, is WILL MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY, often called the "Ivy League Campus of the Southwest." The university admits more National Merit finalists than any other institution of higher learning in the country. The beautifully landscaped campus is comprised of fifty buildings built in the Neo-Byzantine style with red tile Spanish roofs. A special attraction is the Fondren Library which houses the Johnson Space Center archives. In the charter of 1891, the library became one of Houston's finest assets, stating that the "library remains open and free to the public." Distinguished gradu-



ate alumni include Texan Larry McMurtry, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Lonesome Dove*. Visitor parking is located off University Drive near the baseball field or further west near the football stadium.

The TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER, diagonally opposite to Rice University across South Main and behind Hermann Park, was established in 1945 and occupies over 265 acres. It houses institutions that are involved in all phases of medicine, from patient care and research to schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and biotechnology. For a free tour, stop at the Visitor's Center at 1155 Holcombe.

Returning to South Main, turn left and follow it to South Kirby. Turn right and enter at Gate 2. Even before your arrival at the location, you will see the ASTRODOME looming up before you. The complex is comprised of a convention center, exhibition hall and sports coliseum. An eighteen story building would fit inside the sports coliseum. It is home to the Houston Astros Baseball team and also hosts the largest rodeo and livestock show in the nation, each year. You may stop and tour the complex. A film, *Astrodome, the Original*, depicts the historical viewpoint of the stadium, its conception and construction. Tours are offered daily at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM unless preempted by an event. Telephone before you visit. There are parking and tour fees.

The Astrodome sits adjacent to Loop 610 South. You may return to the hotel by heading right on the Loop, then exiting on Westheimer, where you turn left. The hotel is approximately seven miles west.

BEYOND THE CITY CENTER

Located east of the city near Deer Park, the SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK is an excellent attraction to develop an extensive overview of Texas history. The 570 foot tall San Jacinto Monument marks the approximate site where a small, ill equipped group of volunteers, under the leadership of General Sam Houston, defeated Mexican General Santa Ana and the large army of over 1,500 soldiers. The information is presented in detail along with a special film, *Texas Forever*, at the Texas Museum of History. The park is opened everyday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There is a fee to see the film.

Also stop and see the Battleship Texas, one of the few monuments of its kind in the world. Commissioned by the

U. S. Navy shortly before World War I, the battleship served in both world wars. It is distinguished by having served as the flagship for General Dwight D. Eisenhower during the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944.

The LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER at Clear Lake provides an adventure into the past, present and future of NASA's manned space flight program. Stop at the Clear Lake Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1201 NASA Road #1, for information about tours of the facility. Hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. There is an admission for the tour.

SHOPPING AND BROWSING

A seven mile stretch along Westheimer from the hotel east toward Loop 610 is one of Houston's finest districts for shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

Try some authentic Tex-Mex cuisine or sample some Gulf seafood. Houston is also known for its own variation of good Cajun cuisine, like red beans, sausage and rice. Popular

places with many Houstonians are the Pappas chain of restaurants. These specialize in serving American hamburgers, Mexican food, Cajun, seafood or Texas-style pit barbecue.

The free newspaper *Houston Press* also has extensive listings of restaurants.

Visit the GALLERIA. This modern, multilevel shopping complex houses Neiman Marcus and many other specialty and department stores. You may enter on the west end near Macy's and browse to the

far east end, where Neiman's is located. You will find the food court on the bottom level. Several better restaurants are located on the second level near the mall entrance to the Galleria's hotel.

The Adam's Mark runs a shuttle service to the Galleria beginning at 10:00 AM. Check with the front desk upon your arrival for the specific schedule to the Galleria during the convention.

TOWN AND COUNTRY MALL is located at the intersection of the Beltway and Interstate 10 north of the hotel.

If you would like to visit a PLANT NURSERY, then head toward Bellaire, where Teas Nursery is located at 4400 Bellaire Boulevard at Newcastle. You may also choose to lunch in Chinatown at one of any number of Oriental restaurants in the area.



SOUTH MUSEUM DISTRICT

Great Gift Ideas From AVSA

- *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges*
- *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets by Dr. Charles Cole*
- *50 Years with the African Violet Society of America, Inc.*
- African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars Eighth Edition - 1997
- First Class MVL Diskette Computer Program
- MVL Computer Diskette
- Screen Saver (available only from the AVSA web site www.avsa.org)



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



SUPER SPECIAL

Try our **SUPER SPECIAL** – Twelve Husky Starters - all different - \$36 Postpaid - All plants OUR CHOICE, but all different. New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our new plants. Specify: Special #1-Standards; Special #2-Semis and Minis; Special #3-Standards, Semis and Minis; Special #4-Standards, Semis, Minis and Trailers. Send \$2 for our new 1998-99 Catalog. **VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER Credit Card** - List all info on card (exp. date) Minimum credit card order \$30. Visit our Web Site - www.imox.com/travisviolets



Table Model Grow Lite Stands (2 sizes)

You can grow violets on a table top. Both sizes of these grow lights will set comfortably and beautifully on any flat surface. The smaller unit is 26 1/2" long (shown in insert photo); the larger unit is 50 1/2" long.

Each comes with 2 fluorescent plant tubes (grow lites) to provide optimum light for sturdy growth and bloom.

The fixtures hold the lamps 6" apart (center to center) and measure either 24" or 48" by 10" by 2 1/8" and have a high gloss white finish.

Quickly raise or lower the fixture above the growing surface with the easy to use slide and

tighten feature which holds the fixture to the legs. The legs are 24" tall and are made of 1" square shiny aluminum. The fixture may be positioned up to 22" above the table top. Most violet growers find 12 - 15" is ideal. Each stand comes with a 5 foot cord with a built in on/off switch, (or you may operate either stand with an appliance timer (not included) if desired.) Easy assembly! Just install the lamps in the fixture and slide it onto the legs. Does a wonderful job on violets and many other houseplants, or for seed starting.

Prices include shipping via UPS Ground within the contiguous 48 states and are subject to change without notice.

Colorado shipments add 3% sales tax.

Two foot Table Model: \$79.69 Four foot table model: \$99.19

MasterCard and VISA accepted. Phone (303) 761-1770 during shop hours: 10 AM and 5PM (Mountain Time) Mondays or Wednesdays through Saturdays. Closed Sundays + Tuesdays. FAX (24 hours a day) (303) 762-1808.

Send for a free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list. *In business since 1969.*
Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110

VIOLETS ETC.

Bonnie Schmidkofer
813-468-9457

1011 Wood Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755

African Violet Leaves
Gesneriad Cuttings

Specializing in Fredette, Bryant & Wrangler's.
List \$1.00 - Lots of other varieties too.

Mail Order Only

Linda's Heavenly Accents

Honor Roll, Award Winners,
Best of New and Old Varieties
Shipping May 1 Thru November 1
Weather Permitting

Leaves Labeled - MY CHOICE Postage Paid
12-\$10, 25-\$12.50, 50-\$23.00, 100-\$40.00

Linda Smith
P. O. Box 690 (USA ONLY)
Cordova NC 28330-0690
(910) 895-8200



FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES-YELLOWS TOO!
STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS' SUPPLIES

design supplies-books-pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots-2 sizes-many colors
growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

Florida Registration number: 47219602



No new list for 1999 !!!

We will continue to carry our usual large
variety, but will be shipping "Our Choice"
Leaves only. Watch future ads for prices

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

Bill & Kathryn Paaue
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
(516) 589-2724

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED © FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMANN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



Acree
Creations

Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes

YVONNE ACREE
3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

EVERGREEN VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Descriptive list \$1.00 Cash
2304 169th Ave. NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

STILL SHIPPING YEAR ROUND!

Available now only from
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Best Display at 1997 AVSA
National Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE. 2nd best new cultivar at '97 AVSA; just lovely!; lots of med. shell-pink sdbl. pansies held in halo atop exquisite dk. green and tan heavily var. foliage; this has become one of my favorites, just great!; semimini

ROB'S CLUB SODA. Loads of sparkling dbl. white booms heavily frosted blue in pink edging; med. green var. foliage; terrific mini that's always in bloom

ROB'S GIZMO. Blooms early and heavily, and never stops; large, open sdbl. pink stars, held in masses above dark foliage; very easy to grow and bloom; semimini

ROB'S SCARECROW. Large, fully dbl. white stars mottled peachy-yellow; glossy, serrated, med. green foliage; profuse semimini

ROB'S SILLY SALLY. Lots of large, very dark pink sdbl. to dbl. stars held in large bouquet above dark, variegated foliage; small semimini

ROB'S SMARTY PANTS. Very different, very beautiful and likely to be a favorite; large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars w/edging of pink, light speckling of blue fantasy; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; beautiful coloring; mini

ROB'S SNAKE CHARMER. A real favorite amongst those who've seen it; large, sdbl. light pink stars over nearly-black foliage; lovely semimini showplant

ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE. A must-have if you want a great, very tiny plant; lots of sdbl. deep blue semibell blooms over very tiny, pointed, nearly-black foliage; grows and blooms well, doesn't sucker; nice micromini

ROB'S WHOA NELLIE. Lots and lots of dbl. fuchsia-red blooms good white edging; shiny, med. green var. foliage; easy growing, heavy blooming semimini

.....plus 2 new Chimeras as well as dozens of other favorites

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow best in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S BLACKBIRD. Very large, very velvety, very dark nearly-black blooms give a 'birds in flight' look; striking!

BRISTOL'S DOO DAH. Tremendous fully dbl. deep rose blooms over glossy, lightly quilted foliage; constantly in heavy bloom

BRISTOL'S ICY BLUE. Loads of lovely icy-blue blooms w/clear yellow throat; heavy bloomer; great small grower

BRISTOL'S JUMPIN' JACK. Bouquet of med. blue pansies, thin white lines in throat, white petal backs; compact

BRISTOL'S LEOPARD SKIN. Wow! Amazing purple-black, heavily mottled w/silver-white - look of a leopard skin!; a must-have for every collection; a great bloomer too

BRISTOL'S PROM DRESS. Fully dbl. white carnation bloom w/deep pink center; heavy bloomer, very pretty

BRISTOL'S RED HOT. Great fully dbl. deep blood red blooms; for red-lovers; great color

BRISTOL'S WHIRLYGIG. Terrific grower and bloomer, always in very heavy bloom; masses of white single to sdbl. blooms w/lovely blue to lt. purple netting on lower lobes; compact

.....plus 3 other new beauties, dozens of other favorites

NEW! Violets Fun photo journal

Violets Fun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to 4 full-color 8 1/2" x 11" pages, it contains cultural information, reviews of new varieties (ours and others), interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen.

Our mutual love of violets brought us together. Violets Fun is our way of saying "thank you" and sharing our joy with other violet lovers. Since our marriage is a joining of "east and west", Violets Fun will be available in both English and Chinese editions.

Violets Fun is a "diary" of our experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bi-monthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant! You need not order to subscribe.

ALSO SHIPPING THE BEST IN SHOW-QUALITY STANDARD SIZE VARIETIES

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices. 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime (ask about overnite service in winter) - SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH ('ROB') & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of Minis, Trailers, Baby Begonias, and various gesneriads list available, January 1999, \$2.00, refundable with 1st order.



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants
1999 catalog available January 1st
\$1.00 cash, refundable with order
Over 100 new arrivals!

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
(520) 326-3057
email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712
by appointment only

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew



Effective • Invisible • Systemic



For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	6.95	21.95
10 Miniature	4.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	4.95	17.95
10 Trailers	4.95	17.95
10 Mixed	5.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	7.95	24.95
10 Species	7.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	7.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	7.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Columnea	7.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	7.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	7.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$2.50/gal

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com



P.O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

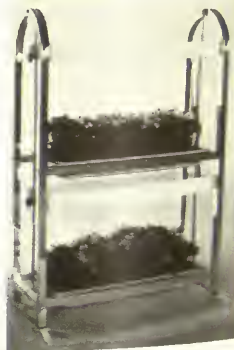
40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D





CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook
Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798
Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540
SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS
OUR 27TH YEAR

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender.	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

	1	6	12	25	50
Mini (6") Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9" Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13" Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and
Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	1 pt.
7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt.	1 pt.
3-12-6	Bloom	\$4.29	\$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$4.29	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29	
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$10.00	
Dolomite Limestone		2 lbs./\$1.75	
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		1.75	5.00

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25
32 oz. - \$10.50
1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79
1 oz. - \$4.19
2 oz. - \$5.25
4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

African Violet Beauties *From The Beautiful Ozarks!*

Won't get to retire yet, so I'll be back next year with
added varieties, New and Oldies. List \$1.00.

SONJA'S VIOLETS
15980 W. Warden Rd.

Omaha, Arkansas 72662
(870) 426-1791

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). To receive 500 labels, mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label above. Orders will be submitted every time 30 are acquired.



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to
The Gloxinian magazine (four issues) plus a
copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:
AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA

Bluebird Greenhouses

Apex, NC
At the Peak of Violetry



Open 9-12 weekdays

4821 Jessie Drive

Apex North Carolina 27502

919-362-0530 Fax 919-362-5822 EMAIL: libbie@ibm.net
http://RTPnet.org/~avsab/bbhome.htm

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198

1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeaux, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels[®] violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well[™] or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



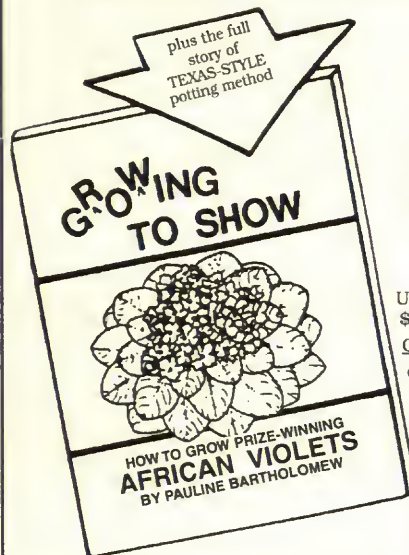
Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot[®] plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**

Calif. add 6% sales tax

overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

SANDY AND SHIRLEY SANDERS

WISH EACH OF YOU A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

LOOK FOR OUR AD IN THE JANUARY ISSUE GIVING YOU THE LATEST PLANTS
FROM

HORTENSE PITTMAN AND SANDRA WILLIAM'S SUNCOAST
KENT STORK AND HANCOCK'S BUCKEYES

DEAN'S, NESS, ROB'S
BROWNLIE'S ACAS, SORANO'S
ALSO LOTS OF OLD FAVORITES

**8 NEW TRAILERS FROM HORTENSE PITTMAN TO ADD TO OUR ALREADY
BEAUTIFUL SELECTION.**

We will have our catalog ready the first of January and will start shipping the first of March where the climate allows us to do so. Prices will be the same for the year 1999 as they were for 1998.

Get your request in for our catalog early. The cost is still \$1.00. Our 1999 catalog will be sent in January to all those making requests after November 1, 1998.

Shirley's House of Violets
1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX. 78221
(210) 923-1093



1998 INDEX OF AUTHORS

- Arceaneux, K. C.
 Bartholomew, Pauline
 Beaulieu, John
 Beckerman, Ellen Wass
 Blanton, Helen
 Borck, Byron
 Broom, Ella H.
 Brownlie, Doris
 Bruns, Janice
 Buck, Marlene
 Burns, Marie
 Buttram, David
 Calvert, Penny
 Carter, John
 Carter, Judith M.
 Champion, Ethel
 Chase, Celine
 Cole, Dr. Charles
 Coleman, Kyle
 Colwell, June
 Cornibe, Cathy
 Corondan, Mary
 Corrigan, Mary Ann
 Corse, Nancy R.
 Coulson, Ruth
 Covolo, Steve
 Daugeureau, Jenny
 Donaho, Wayne
 Douglas, Rena
 Elkin, Barbara
 Foster, Bill
 Gardner, Sue
 Geiss, Don
 Geiss, Maxine
 Gibbs, Dolores
 Goeke, Ruth
 A Report On Growing African Violets From Commercial Seed, Jan p 46
 Pots, May p 21; Show Manners, May p 54
 Some Thoughts on Seed, Mar p 41
 'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet :-), Sep p 49; Electronic Violets for Every Computer, Mar p 39
 AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 34; Sep p 19; Nov p 23
 Growing and Showing African Violets, Nov p 50
 School Partnerships, Mar p 28
 Growing A Show Plant, Mar p 12
 Thinking Small, Mar p 6
 Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 17; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 47; Sep p 16; Nov p 23
 Growing Large Show Plants, May p 53
 1998 Vacation Guide, May p 18; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look - A Review, Sep p 20; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Alannah's African Violets), Nov p 20; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Mighty Minis), May p 50; Goodbye Granger Gardens, Jan p 40; It Was Nice While It Lasted, May p 16; Remembering Richard "Dick" Maduro, Nov p 22; The Name of The Game Is The Name, Mar p 18
 Appreciated by the Youngest, Jul p 50
 AVSA and Today's Technologies, Jan p 5; May p 49; Sep p 46
 AVSA Advertising Guidelines, Mar p 53
 The Story of Superman, Nov p 16
 Dividing and Choosing Baby Plants, May p 21
 What Happened To My Plants - Hunger Signs in Violets, Jan p 43
 Violets and Romance, Mar p 11
 Regional Reviews, Mar p 42
 Constructing And Judging A Bubble Bowl, Jan p 27
 "And The Winners Are...", Jan p 13; Mar p 10; May p 5; Jul p 22; Sep p 42; Nov p 19
 Judging the Show Plant, Nov p 46
 Letter From a Member, Nov p 17
 Curls and Frills, Jan p 30; Long Division for African Violets, not Arithmetic, Mar p 52; Plants, Plants, Plants...aargh..., May p 47
 Some Thoughts on "Violet Overload", Nov p 49
 Office Update, Nov p 5
 What's New on the Internet, Mar p 51; What's New on the Web, Jul p 31
 Basic Care and Culture of African Violets, Jul p 19; Let's Go Underground, Jan p 34
 Sacramento Convention '98 - What's Your Line?, Jan p 13; Vintage Violets, Jan p 19; Mar p 38; Jul p 48; Sep p 48; Nov p 27
 Judging the Show Plant, Nov p 46; Shows and Judges, Jan p 9; Mar p 17; May p 5; Sep p 11
 African Violet Sports, May p 13
 Building a Plant Stand, Nov p 34; Everyone Is An Expert, Jan p 24; Failures In Raising African Violets, May p 33; The Way Down South Club, Jul p 18
 Hide and Seek With A Reservoir, Mar p 20
 1998 LSACV State Convention, Sep p 10
 1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables, Sep p 50; Natural Gardens, May p 51
 Goodsell, Barbara
 Green, Bob L.
 Grieco, Ruth
 Grundy, Alice
 Halford, Joan
 Hancock, Pat
 Hayston, Jean
 Henry, Irene
 Hilton, Rita
 Hodges, Sue
 Hoefer, Ed
 Hoffmann, Sue
 Hoover, Darryl
 Iskra, Cal
 Jones, Jackie
 Keating, Iris
 King, Phyllis
 Kosowsky, Dorothy
 Kuperberg, Ann
 Lawson, Floyd
 Lazarus, Marcia
 Leifeste, Connie
 Lind, Keith
 Lundgren, Anna Jean
 Lyons, Bill
 Marchant, W. S.
 Marsh, Barbara J.
 Martens, Dale
 Martin, Frank
 Mayfield, Blake
 McAllen, Carolyn
 McCain, Jean
 McKain, Hal
 Moser, Leta
 Neal, Dave
 Nelson, Shirley
 Nonny-Mousse, A.
 Okishita, Ken'ichi
 Owens, Jim
 Paauwe, Bill
 Parsons, Nadine
 Pershing, Barb
 Pittman, Hortense & Sundown
 Promersberger, Bev
 Rexilius, Jane
 Thrips, Jul p 21; Violets on Vacation, Jul p 45
 Eye on Design - "Rhythm in Design", Nov p 30; Guidelines for Judges, May p 52
 Hopefully Helpful Handy Hints, May p 39
 Regional Reviews, Mar p 42
 Saintpaulia's Family, Nov p 52; Violets in Retirement, Jan p 26
 Regional Reviews, Mar p 43
 Fantasies and Other Color Changes, Nov p 48
 Regional Reviews, May p 44
 Growing For The Gold, Jan p 32
 Spring Chores, Mar p 40
 African Violet Bloom Jelly, Jul p 13
 Grooming Is More Important Than You Think!, May p 27; Jul p 8
 Regional Reviews, May p 42
 Regional Reviews, Mar p 44
 Annual Library Message, Jul p 38
 Registration Report, Jan p 22; Mar p 31; May p 38; Jul p 49; Sep p 51; Nov p 54
 Regional Reviews, May p 43
 Best In Show, Next Time!!!, Sep p 18; Question Box, Mar p 22; Jul p 30; Nov p 14
 Purple Passion (Poem), May p 37
 1998 Best Varieties, Nov p 41; AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 41; Send Your Choices, Jan p 35
 Disbudding, Jul p 51
 Exploring Houston, Texas (1999 AVSA Convention April 4-11, 1999), Nov p 55
 Root Rot, Nov p 18
 Tally Time 1997, Mar p 8
 AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 12; Jul p 35; Sep p 13; Nov p 35
 Chimeras, Mar p 34
 School Partnerships, Mar p 28
 Gesneri-Advice, Jan p 38; Mar p 35; May p 26; Jul p 26; Sep p 17; Nov p 9; Regional Reviews, Mar p 44
 My Plant, the Doctor - A Medical Miracle, May p 40
 Blake's Aunt Doris, Sep p 31
 "Pardon Me - I Didn't Catch Your Name", Nov p 26
 Violets Bloom for Maggie, Mar p 46
 411 - I Hoped I Was Wrong, Sep p 10; Tender Handling, Nov p 53
 Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets, Mar p 26; More News on Foliar Feeding, Sep p 26
 African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general), Sep p 34; Nov p 42
 Basics, Nov p 48
 Did You Know?, Sep p 39
 Regional Reviews, May p 45
 Tour Time, Jul p 54
 1997 Annual Index, Jan p 61
 African Violet Insurance? Plant That Sucker!, Nov p 53
 Soil Mealy Bugs, Jul p 20
 Announcement, Sep p 7
 A Helping Hand Into The Future, Jul p 10; Affiliate Update, Nov p 8; AVSA and Affiliates - Growing Together, Jan p 18; May p 34; Sep p 30; Finding Them Where They Are, Sep p 30; Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, Jul p 9; Regional Reviews, May p 42; Why Join An Affiliate?, Jan p 18
 Best Articles of 1997 - Certificates of Appreciation, Nov p 17



Richards, Pat	Regional Reviews, Mar p 42; Thinking Small, Jan p 16; May p 30; Jul p 14; Sep p 6; Nov p 12	Stork, Kent and Joyce	For Beginners, Jan p 6; Mar p 13; May p 10; Jul p 6; Sep p 14; Nov p 6
Rinick, Henry B. Jr.	Let Me Tell You About My Wife, Jan p 23	Tinari, Anne	No Finer Gift (An African violet membership subscription), Nov p 11
Robinson, Dr., Ralph	Notes on Trailing African Violets, May p 22; Question Box, Jan p 10; May p 8; Sep p 8	Trapp, Palma	Regional Reviews, May p 44
Rumsey, Ruth	Editor's Notes, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4	Vinciguerra, Pat	Fantastic Ideas!, Jan p 31
Sanders, Shirley	From Russia, With Love, Nov p 38	Walbrick, Mary	African Violet Ornaments, Nov p 51; Soil & Potting Mixtures, May p 24
Schroeder, Dorothy	Physan - One More Time, Jul p 21	Walsh, Peggy	A Line on Design, Jul p 45
Simmons, Morgan	People to People: What Society Is All About, Jul p 53	Water, Monte	Temperature, Humidity, Air Circulation, Nov p 47
Smith, Dr., Jeff	Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets, Mar p 26; In Search of New Violets, Jan p 14; Mar p 16; May p 6; Jul p 16; Sep p 12; Nov p 10; More News on Foliar Feeding, Sep p 26; Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Rosette Species, Jul p 46; Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Species Trailers, May p 14	Welchel, Lynda C.	Join The African Violet Connection Mail Group, Sep p 45
Sorensen, Janice	Denver's 50 Years of African Violets, Sep p 41	Wells, Esther Edwards	President's Message, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3;
Stenger, Joyce	Take a Plant to the Office, Sep p 40	Whitesides, Elizabeth	Keeping Track of Your Collection, May p 36; Not Dead Yet!, Jan p 21
		Wong, Hector	Growing African Violets in Hawaii, Sep p 38
		Yeates, Rose Marie	What a Lifesaver, Jul p 13

1998 TITLES AND SUBJECTS

A HELPING HAND INTO THE FUTURE, Promersberger, Bev, Jul p 10	AWARDS NEEDED FOR THE 1999 HOUSTON CONVENTION, Sep p 46
Affiliate Liability Insurance, Nov p 5	Awards, Jan p 31; Jul p 27; Nov p 37
AFFILIATE UPDATE, Promersberger, Bev, Nov p 8	BAKING SOIL, May p 49
AFFILIATES - YOU ARE INVITED, Mar p 23	BASIC CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Douglas, Rena, Jul p 19
Affiliates, Jan p 18; May p 34; Jul p 9; Sep p 30; Sep p 46; Nov p 8	BASICS, Nelson, Shirley, Nov p 48
AFRICAN VIOLET BLOOM JELLY, Hofer, Ed, Jul p 13	BEST ARTICLES OF 1997 - CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION, Rexilius, Jane, Nov p 17
AFRICAN VIOLET INSURANCE? PLANT THAT SUCKER!, Parsons, Nadine, Nov p 53	BEST IN SHOW, NEXT TIME!!!, Kosowsky, Dorothy, Sep p 18
AFRICAN VIOLET NUTRITION (AND PLANTS IN GENERAL), Neal, Dave, Sep p 34; Nov p 42	BEST VARIETIES, 1998, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 41
AFRICAN VIOLET ORNAMENTS, Walbrick, Mary, Nov p 51	Black Vine Weevil (on Streptocarpus), Jan p 12
AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!, Stork, Kent & Joyce, May p 10; Jul p 6	BLAKE'S AUNT DORIS, Mayfield, Blake, Sep p 31
AFRICAN VIOLET SPORTS, Gardner, Sue, May p 13	BLOOMING SECRETS, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Nov p 6
African Violet Store, May p 3	BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 17; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 47; Sep p 16; Nov p 23
Air Circulation, Nov p 47	Bubble Bowls, Jan p 27
"AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Corondan, Mary, Jan p 13; Mar p 10; May p 5; Jul p 22; Sep p 42; Nov p 19	BUILDING A PLANT STAND, Geiss, Don, Nov p 34
ANNOUNCEMENT, Pittman, Hortense & Sundown, Sep p 7	CHIMERAS, Marchant, W. S., Mar p 34
ANNUAL INDEX, Paauwe, Bill, Jan p 61	Chimeras, May p 9
ANNUAL LIBRARY MESSAGE, Jones, Jackie, Jul p 38	Classification caveats, Jan p 9
Aphids, Sep p 9	Coir, Sep p 6
APPRECIATED BY THE YOUNGEST, Calvert, Penny, Jul p 50	COMING EVENTS FORM, Mar p 5
ATTENTION AFFILIATES, Jan p 22; Jan p 26; Jul p 51	COMING EVENTS, Jan p 39; Mar p 48; May p 48; Jul p 15; Sep p 52; Nov p 51
ATTENTION: INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS, Mar p 4	Computer Information, Mar p 39
Auction, Nov p 24	CONCERNING FOLIAR FEEDING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Moser, Leta, and Smith, Dr., Jeff, Mar p 26
AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES, Carter, Judith M., Mar p 53	CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING A BUBBLE BOWL, Cornibe, Cathy, Jan p 27
AVSA AND AFFILIATES - GROWING TOGETHER, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18; May p 34; Sep p 30	Container Gardens, May p 51
AVSA AND TODAY'S TECHNOLOGIES, Carter, John, Jan p 5; May p 49; Sep p 46	CONVENTION AWARDS, Jan p 41; Mar p 45
AVSA AUCTION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!, Jul p 17	Convention Presentations, 1998, Jan Sup, p A-11
AVSA AWARDS, Jul p 27	CONVENTION QUESTIONS?, Mar p 47
AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES, 1998, Jan p 20	Convention Tours, 1998, Jan Sup, p A-6, Jul p 54
AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Lyons, Bill, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 12; Jul p 35; Sep p 13; Nov p 35	Convention, 1999, Sep p 24; Nov p 55
AVSA BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FUND, Blanton, Helen, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 34; Sep p 19; Nov p 23	CURLS AND FRILLS, Coulson, Ruth, Jan p 30
AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, Nov p 51	DENVER'S 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Sorensen, Janice, Sep p 41
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK - A REVIEW, Buttram, David, Sep p 20	Design, Jul p 45; Nov p 30
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK (ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS), Buttram, David, Nov p 20	Designs using Minis and Semis, May p 30
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK (MIGHTY MINIS), Buttram, David, May p 50	DID YOU KNOW?, Nonny-Mousse, A., Sep p 39
AVSA CONVENTION COMMERCIAL DISPLAY TABLES, 1998, Goetze, Ruth, Sep p 50	DISBUDDING, Lazarus, Marcia, Jul p 51
AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE, Jan Sup, p A-1	DISCOVER CALIFORNIA CASUAL!., Mar p 5
AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 41	DISCOVER CALIFORNIA! SESQUICENTENNIAL!., Mar p 21
AVSA International Convention, 1999, Sep p 24	DIVIDING AND CHOOSING BABY PLANTS, Chase, Celine, May p 21
AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS - 1998, Sep sup, p A-1; Nov p 5	Dividing plants, Mar p 52
AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS, 1998, Jul p 5	Dominant and Recessive Traits, Sep p 12; Nov p 10
	Dyna-Gro, Mar p 7; Nov p 44
	EDITOR'S NOTES, Rumsey, Ruth, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
	ELECTRONIC VIOLETS FOR EVERY COMPUTER, Beckerman, Ellen Wass, Mar p 39
	Elementary school violet project, Jul p 10
	Elements (Mineral & Non-Mineral), Jan p 43; Nov p 42

Episcias, Sep p 17
 EVERYONE IS AN EXPERT, Geiss, Don, Jan p 24
 EXPLORING HOUSTON, TEXAS (1999 AVSA CONVENTION, APRIL 4-11, 1999),
 Leifeste, Connie, Nov p 55
 EYE ON DESIGN – "RHYTHM IN DESIGN", Green, Bob L., Nov p 30
 EYES OF TEXAS ARE UPON US!, THE, Jul p 27
 FAILURES IN RAISING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Geiss, Don, May p 33
 FANTASIES AND OTHER COLOR CHANGES, Hayston, Jean, Nov p 48
 FANTASTIC IDEAS!., Vinciguerra, Pat, Jan p 31
 Fertilizer crud, Jul p 31
 Fertilizers, May p 11; Nov p 7; Nov p 43; Nov p 50
 FINDING THEM WHERE THEY ARE, Promersberger, Bev, Sep p 30
 Foliar Feeding, Mar p 26; Sep p 26; Nov p 13
 FOR BEGINNERS, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Jan p 6; Mar p 13; May p 10; Jul p 6;
 Sep p 14; Nov p 6
 FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE, Sanders, Shirley, Nov p 38
 Gesneriads from seed, Mar p 41
 GESNERI-ADVICE, Martens, Dale, Jan p 38; Mar p 35; May p 26; Jul p 26;
 Sep p 17; Nov p 9
 Girl foliage, Nov p 10
 GOODBYE GRANGER GARDENS, Buttram, David, Jan p 40
 GROOMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK!, Hoffmann, Sue,
 May p 27; Jul p 8
 Grooming, Jul p 7; Nov p 48
 GROWING A SHOW PLANT, Brownlie, Doris, Mar p 12
 GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN HAWAII, Wong, Hector, Sep p 38
 GROWING AND SHOWING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Borck, Byron, Nov p 50
 GROWING FOR THE GOLD, Hilton, Rita, Jan p 32
 GROWING LARGE SHOW PLANTS, Burns, Marie, May p 53
 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES, Green, Bob L., May p 52
 HEAR YE! HEAR YE!, Promersberger, Bev, Jul p 9
 HIDE AND SEEK WITH A RESERVOIR, Geiss, Maxine, Mar p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – JAMES SMITH, Jul p 27
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – JO ANNE MARTINEZ, Jul p 27
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – MARY LOU HARDEN, Jul p 27
 HOPEFULLY HELPFUL HANDY HINTS, Grieco, Ruth, May p 39
 HOW TO "PLANT" A LEAF, Nov p 18
 HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP – IRIS KEATING,
 Jul p 27
 Humidity, Nov p 47
 Hybridizing, May p 14, Jul p 46
 I HOPED I WAS WRONG – 411!, McKain, Hal, Sep p 10
 IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 13
 IN MEMORY – CAROLINE FLEISCH, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – ELIZABETH GATLIN ABRAHAM, Sep p 27
 IN MEMORY – ERNEST THOMSEN, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – EVAN PAUL ROBERTS, Jan p 15
 IN MEMORY – FRANCES BEAVER, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – FRED MOAK, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – HELEN A. GEISLER, Mar p 5
 IN MEMORY – HELEN LEONE MIETZNER, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – NORMA MYLO LETO, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – OPAL RAGSDALE, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – PATRICIA C. ISBELL, Sep p 27
 IN MEMORY – PEGGY STAAT, Mar p 5
 IN MEMORY – PHILIP LYNDE HARDEN, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – RALPH REED, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – VIOLA J. TUCKER, Jan p 35
 IN SEARCH OF NEW VIOLETS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jan p 14; Mar p 16; May p 6;
 Jul p 16; Sep p 12; Nov p 10
 Insects and Diseases, Jul p 8
 Internet, Mar p 51, Jul p 31; Sep p 45; Sep p 46; Sep p 49
 IS THIS HOW MY VIOLETS SHOULD LOOK?, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Mar p 13
 IT WAS NICE WHILE IT LASTED, Buttram, David, May p 16
 ITEMS NEEDED FOR SECOND ANNUAL AVSA CONVENTION AUCTION, Nov p 24
 JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET CONNECTION MAIL GROUP, Welch, Lynda C.,
 Sep p 45
 Judges' Handbook, May p 3
 JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT, Foster, Bill, and Corrigan, Mary Ann, Nov p 46
 KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR COLLECTION, Whitesides, Elizabeth, May p 36
 LAST CHANCE!, Jan p 31
 Leaf Propagation, Nov p 18
 Leaves (as in 'Plant Barometer'), Mar p 13
 LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY WIFE, Rinick, Henry B., Jr., Jan p 23
 LET'S GO UNDERGROUND, Douglas, Rena, Jan p 34
 LETTER FROM A MEMBER, Corse, Nancy R., Nov p 17
 Light requirements, May p 10; Nov p 6; Nov p 50
 Lights, Jan p 11; Sep p 53
 LINE ON DESIGN, A, Walsh, Peggy, Jul p 45
 LONG DIVISION FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS, NOT ARITHMETIC, Coulson, Ruth,
 Mar p 52
 LSVC STATE CONVENTION, 1998, Gibbs, Dolores, Sep p 10
 MAIL ORDERING, Stork, Kent & Joyce, Jan p 6
 Marathon, Jul p 20
 MASTER LIST OF AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIES AND CULTIVARS, 1998 SUPPLE-
 MENT, Nov Sup, p A-1
 Master Variety List, May p 3
 Merchandise (AVSA), Jul p 40, Jul p 44; Sep p 5; Nov p 40; Nov p 51
 Minutes, Sep p 47
 Misting, Nov p 47
 Mold potting, Nov p 15
 Moon Signs, Mar p 30; May p 41; Jul p 52; Sep p 54; Nov p 45
 MORE NEWS ON FOLIAR FEEDING, Moser, Leta and Smith, Dr., Jeff, Sep p 26
 MY PLANT, THE DOCTOR – A MEDICAL MIRACLE, Martin, Frank, May p 40
 NAME OF THE GAME IS THE NAME, THE, Buttram, David, Mar p 18
 NATURAL GARDENS, Goeke, Ruth, May p 51
 Necks, Sep p 14
 NEEDED: NOMINATIONS FOR THE HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR
 AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP, Jul p 12
 'NETTIQUETTE, THE LANGUAGE OF THE INTERNET :-), Sep p 49
 NEW ITEMS OFFERED BY AVSA, Jul p 40; Sep p 5; Nov p 40; Nov p 51
 NEW SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER, Jul p 8
 NO FINER GIFT (AN AFRICAN VIOLET MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION),
 Tnari, Anne, Nov p 11
 NOT DEAD YET!, Whitesides, Elizabeth, Jan p 21
 NOTES ON TRAILING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, May p 22
 Nutrients, Jan p 43; Sep p 34; Nov p 7; Nov p 42
 NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Nov p 44
 OFFICE UPDATE, Daugereau, Jenny, Nov p 5
 PARDON ME – I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME", McAllen, Carolyn, Nov p 26
 PARTNER, JOIN THE LONE STAR VIOLET ROUND-UP!", Sep p 24
 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE: WHAT SOCIETY IS ALL ABOUT, Simmons, Morgan, Jul p 53
 pH, Jan p 10; Jan p 43; Sep p 35
 PHYSAN – ONE MORE TIME, Schroeder, Dorothy, Jul p 21
 PLACING AFRICAN VIOLETS UNDER LIGHTS, Sep p 53
 Plant Food, Jan p 44
 PLANTING BY MOON SIGNS, Mar p 30; May p 41; Jul p 52; Sep p 54; Nov p 45
 PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS...AARGH..., Coulson, Ruth, May p 47
 Pot size, May p 8; Nov p 7
 POTS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 21
 Potting mixes, May p 11; May p 24; Sep p 15; Nov p 7
 Potting Tips, Jan p 5; Sep p 15
 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Wells, Esther Edwards, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3;
 Jul p 3; Sep p 3
 Propagating, Jul p 6
 PURPLE PASSION (Poem), Kuperberg, Ann, May p 37
 QUESTION BOX, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, Jan p 10; May p 8; Sep p 8;
 Kosowsky, Dorothy, Mar p 22; Jul p 30; Nov p 14
 Raspberry-edge plants, Jul p 16
 Record-keeping, May p 36
 REGIONAL REVIEWS, Richards, Pat; Colwell, June; Grundy, Alice; Hancock, Pat;
 Martens, Dale; and Iskra, Cal, Mar p 42; Promersberger, Bev; Hoover, Darryl;
 King, Phyllis; Henry, Irene; Trapp, Palma; Okishita, Ken'ichi, May p 42
 REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 22; Mar p 31; May p 38; Jul p 49;
 Sep p 51; Nov p 54
 REMEMBERING ALMA M. WRIGHT, May p 17
 REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" MADURO, Buttram, David, Nov p 22
 REPORT ON GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM COMMERCIAL SEED, A,
 Arceneaux, K. C., Jan p 46
 Repotting, Jul p 6; Sep p 15
 Rhizomes, Nov p 9
 ROOT ROT, Lind, Keith, Nov p 18
 Roots, Jan p 34; Nov p 7
 Ruffled Foliage, Jan p 30
 SACRAMENTO CONVENTION '98 – WHAT'S YOUR LINE?, Elkin, Barbara,
 Jan p 13

SAINTPAULIA'S FAMILY, Halford, Joan, Nov p 52
 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS, Broom, Ella H., and Marsh, Barbara J., Mar p 28
 SEASONS GREETINGS, Nov p 3
 SEND YOUR CHOICES, Lawson, Floyd, Jan p 35
 SHOW MANNERS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 54
 SHOWS AND JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 9; Mar p 17; May p 5; Sep p 11
 SIGNS OF TROUBLE, Jul p 20
 Sinnlingias, Sep p 17
 SOIL & POTTING MIXTURES, Walbrick, Mary, May p 24
 SOIL MEALY BUGS, Pershing, Barb, Jul p 20
 Soil recipe, Sep p 8
 SOME EXPERIENCES IN HYBRIDIZING WITH THE ROSETTE SPECIES,
 Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jul p 46
 SOME EXPERIENCES IN HYBRIDIZING WITH THE SPECIES TRAILERS, Smith, Dr.,
 Jeff, May p 14
 SOME POTTING TIPS THE BOOKS DON'T MENTION, Jan p 5
 SOME THOUGHTS ON "VIOLET OVERLOAD", Covolo, Steve, Nov p 49
 SOME THOUGHTS ON SEED, Beaulieu, John, Mar p 41
 SOMETHING NEW!! AUCTION AT SATURDAY LUNCHEON, Jan Sup, p A-7
 Sports, May p 13
 SPRING CHORES, Hodges, Sue, Mar p 40
 Springtails, Jan p 10
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS, AVSA, Sep p 47
 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, Nov p 24
 Sterilizing soil, May p 49
 STORY OF SUPERMAN, THE, Champion, Ethel, Nov p 16
 Streptocarpus, Sep p 17
 Sucker propagation, Mar p 52; Nov p 53
 Summer care, May p 39
 TAKE A PLANT TO THE OFFICE, Stenger, Joyce, Sep p 40
 TALLY TIME - 1997, Lundgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 8
 Tanzania Wildlife Fund, Sep p 4
 TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY, AIR CIRCULATION, Watler, Monte, Nov p 47
 Temperature, May p 9; Nov p 50
 TENDER HANDLING, McKain, Hal, Nov p 53
 Texas Style potting, Jul p 30
 THANK YOU!, Mar p 45
 THANKS TO THE AVSA MEMBERS FROM COLORADO, Jan p 4

THANKS TO THE TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, Jan p 4
 THANKS, Jan p 33
 THINKING SMALL, Richards, Pat, Jan p 16; May p 30; Jul p 14; Sep p 6;
 Nov p 12; Bruns, Janice, Mar p 6
 THRIPS, Goodsell, Barbara, Jul p 21
 TIMELY TIPS, May p 7
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARD - ROCKY MOUNTAIN AFRICAN
 VIOLET COUNCIL, Jul p 27
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARDS, Jan p 41
 TIPS FROM TEXAS, May p 45
 TOUR TIME, Owens, Jim, Jul p 54
 Trace elements, Sep p 35; Nov p 42
 Trailing African Violets, Jan p 11; May p 22
 Urea content (fertilizers), Mar p 22; Sep p 35
 VACATION GUIDE, 1998, Buttram, David, May p 18
 VINTAGE VIOLETS, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 19; Mar p 38; Jul p 48; Sep p 48;
 Nov p 27
 VIOLET GROWER'S "PROP BOX", Nov p 24
 VIOLETS AND ROMANCE, Coleman, Kyle, Mar p 11
 VIOLETS BLOOM FOR MAGGIE, McCain, Jean, Mar p 46
 VIOLETS IN RETIREMENT, Halford, Joan, Jan p 26
 VIOLETS ON VACATION, Goodsell, Barbara, Jul p 45
 Watering methods, May p 46; Nov p 49
 Watering requirements, May p 10; Nov p 6
 WATERING YOUR VIOLET, Nov p 49
 WATERING, May p 46
 WAY DOWN SOUTH CLUB, THE, Geiss, Don, Jul p 18
 WE DISCOVERED CALIFORNIA! (Pictures), Jul p 42
 Website, Mar p 3; Mar p 51
 WHAT A LIFESAVER!, Yeates, Rose Marie, Jul p 13
 WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?, Jul p 34
 WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PLANTS - HUNGER SIGNS IN VIOLETS,
 Cole, Dr., Charles, Jan p 43
 WHAT'S NEW ON THE INTERNET, Donaho, Wayne, Mar p 51
 WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB, Donaho, Wayne, Jul p 31
 WHY JOIN AN AFFILIATE?, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18
 Wick-watering caveats, May p 8
 Yearbooks, Jan p 22

1998 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

BERTHA - (Foster), Nov p 37
 B-MAN SURPRISE - (Curcuroto), Mar p 37
 BOGEY MAN - (Scott), Jan cover
 CATHY'S FIREWORKS - (C. Corimbe), Sep p 28
 CIRELDA - (Tracey), Jul p 33
 COLUMNNEA 'BROGET STAVANGER', Nov p 33
 COLUMNNEA 'JULIA' - Jul p 37
 COOL BLUE - (Pittman), Jul p 32
 DEAN'S IVORY LACE - (Hobbs), Nov p 28
 DEER PATH - (J. Gehr), Nov cover
 DELFT IMPERIAL - (Eyerdom), Jul p 28
 EDEE - (Patt Harris), Sep p 33
 EPISCIA 'CLEOPATRA' - Sep p 37
 FANTASY FRECKLES - (Tinari), Nov p 36
 FAVORITE CHILD - (Cox/Johnson), Sep p 29
 FLOWER CHILD - (Sorano), Jul p 32
 HONEY BERRY - (Pittman), Jan p 36
 HULA HOOP - (Sorano), Sep cover
 IRISH SWEEPS - (Unknown), Jan p 29
 KOHLERIA 'LAURA' - Jan p 36
 LELA MARIE - (Lineberg), Jan p 28
 LITTLE CHATTERBOX - (Sorano), Sep cover
 LITTLE PRO - (Pittman), Jan cover
 LYON'S JUNE BUG - (Sorano), Jul p 29
 MAMA'S LITTLE SPORT - (Ruby Cox), Nov p 36
 MS. SMARTYPANTS - (Sorano), Sep cover
 NESS' PIXIE GRIN - (Ness), Nov p 32
 NIGHT MAGIC - (Pittman), Mar cover

NOB HILL - (Beck), Sep p 29
 PETITE JEWEL - (Pittman), Jan cover
 PHOSPHORESCENCE - (Tinari), Mar p 32
 QUIET ACCORD - (Elkin), May p 29
 RAINBOW'S QUIET RIOT - (Wasmund), May cover
 REBEL'S ASTRO SPINNER - (Bann), Mar p 32
 REBEL'S CUCUMBER KOOL - (Bann), Nov p 28
 REBEL'S VALIANT - (Bann), May p 29
 ROB'S FUDDY DUDDY - (Robinson), Jul cover
 ROB'S MACHO DEVIL - (Robinson), Sep p 32
 ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE - (Robinson), Sep p 32, Nov p 32
 RUN FOR COVER - (Stork), Mar p 36
 SADDLE SHOES - (Stork), Nov p 29
 SAINTPAULIA BREVIPILOSA, May p 32
 SAINTPAULIA GRANDIFOLIA #299 - Jul p 33
 SAINTPAULIA SHUMENSIS, May p 32
 SAINTPAULIA VELUTINA LIGHT, May p 32
 SAPPHIRE HALO - (Boone), Mar p 33
 SOCKEYE - (Stork), Jul p 29
 STAINED GLASS - (Wasche), May p 28
 STRAWBERRY WAVE - (Sorano), Sep p 36
 STREPTOCARPUS 'ROSE BUD' - May p 28
 SUNCOAST LAVENDER SILK - (Williams), Jan p 37
 SUNCOAST PAISLEY PRINT - (Williams), Sep p 36
 SUNNYSIDE ROMA - (Unknown), Sep p 28
 TEEN THUNDER - (Pittman), Mar cover
 TEXAS SPACE DUST - (Pittman), Jul p 28
 WINDSOME - (PITTMAN), Mar cover

NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers							
TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00		

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high							
4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00		
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00		

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

Size	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special

FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)

PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)

VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)

CANADIAN PEAT - Milled

DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix

GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)

SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)

SUPERTHRIVE

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)

VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)

PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)

BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)

HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)

GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)

DYNA GRO FERTILIZER

Dyna Gro -7-9-5

Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY

SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules

MALATHION 50

ROOTONE F - Rooting compound

CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use

Concentrate

1600-X-CLUDE

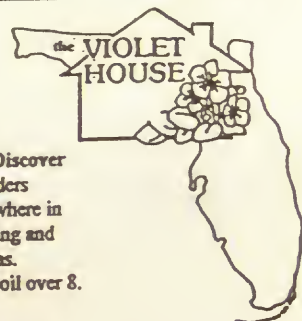
Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV

P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602

(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

Start making your list and checking it twice

ALL ITEMS LISTED ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE GIFTS AND ARE SHIPPED PROMPTLY THE YEAR ROUND BY UPS



*As holiday time again draws near,
Memories revive both warmth and cheer.
Displaying faith in place of doubt,
Stability in place of fear.
May peace, hope, joy and friendship,
fill your life in great dimension.*

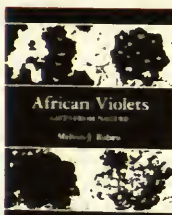
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD ORDERS
PHONE 1-215-947-0144
FAX 1-215-947-2163



"AFRICAN VIOLETS GIFTS FROM NATURE"

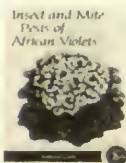
by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece ... \$45.00 ppd.



"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.



"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed.

Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements.

An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success ... \$16.95 postpaid

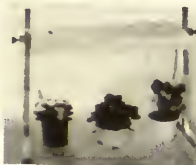


TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... \$65.95 ppd.

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length. ... \$75.95 ppd.



4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.

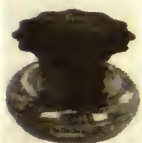
4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish ... \$319.00 ppd.

4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish ... \$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple to use wick watering system, easy to fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning. **DANDY POT** ... 4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir \$5.99 each with any order, specify color desired.

PICK OF THE LITTER ... NEW ITEM ... by popular request - a litter of 5 stuffed cats in attractive violet motif fabric with satin violet-colored ribbon collar and violet felt eyes. Ranging from 9" to 4 1/2" tall ... SPECIAL litter of 5 cats ... \$12.95 ppd



TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 0-1-2 ... \$12.95 ppd.

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 3-4-5 ... \$13.95 ppd.

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 6-7-8-9 ... \$14.95 ppd.

(First number of your zip code indicates you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT



STYLE CSW-1

Height 4-1/2" overall
Width 7" overall
Pot Size For 3" or 4" pots
Price \$14.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-2

Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 5-1/2" overall
Pot Size For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
Price \$10.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MINI

(for miniatures & semiminiatures)

Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 4-3/4" overall
Pot Size Minis
Price \$8.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)

NEW - especially for Microminis
Height 2-1/4"
Width 3-1/2" overall
Price \$6.95 ppd

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white. ... \$14.95 ppd



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets \$5.95 with any order.

WINDOW PLANTERS

3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24".

WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" \$17.95 ppd

WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" \$22.95 ppd

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... \$3.49 each ppd.

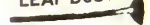
"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... \$4.95 each ppd.

SPECIAL: One of each ... \$7.95 ppd.

SUCKER PLUCKER



LEAF DUSTER



G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS ... \$175.00 ppd



DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

GREENHOUSES

Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

1998 INDEX OF AUTHORS

- Arceneaux, K. C. A Report On Growing African Violets From Commercial Seed, Jan p 46
- Bartholomew, Pauline Pots, May p 21; Show Manners, May p 54
- Beaulieu, John Some Thoughts on Seed, Mar p 41
- Beckerman, Ellen Wass 'Net'tiquette, The Language of the Internet :-), Sep p 49; Electronic Violets for Every Computer, Mar p 39
- Blanton, Helen AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 34; Sep p 19; Nov p 23
- Borck, Byron Growing and Showing African Violets, Nov p 50
- Broom, Ella H. School Partnerships, Mar p 28
- Brownlie, Doris Growing A Show Plant, Mar p 12
- Bruns, Janice Thinking Small, Mar p 6
- Buck, Marlene Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 17; Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 47; Sep p 16; Nov p 23
- Burns, Marie Growing Large Show Plants, May p 53
- Buttram, David 1998 Vacation Guide, May p 18; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look - A Review, Sep p 20; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Alannah's African Violets), Nov p 20; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Mighty Minis), May p 50; Goodbye Granger Gardens, Jan p 40; It Was Nice While It Lasted, May p 16; Remembering Richard "Dick" Maduro, Nov p 22; The Name of The Game is The Name, Mar p 18
- Calvert, Penny Appreciated by the Youngest, Jul p 50
- Carter, John AVSA and Today's Technologies, Jan p 5; May p 49; Sep p 46
- Carter, Judith M. AVSA Advertising Guidelines, Mar p 53
- Champion, Ethel The Story of Superman, Nov p 16
- Chase, Celine Dividing and Choosing Baby Plants, May p 21
- Cole, Dr., Charles What Happened To My Plants - Hunger Signs in Violets, Jan p 43
- Coleman, Kyle Violets and Romance, Mar p 11
- Colwell, June Regional Reviews, Mar p 42
- Cornibe, Cathy Constructing And Judging A Bubble Bowl, Jan p 27
- Corondan, Mary "And The Winners Are...", Jan p 13; Mar p 10; May p 5; Jul p 22; Sep p 42; Nov p 19
- Corrigan, Mary Ann Judging the Show Plant, Nov p 46
- Corse, Nancy R. Letter From a Member, Nov p 17
- Coulson, Ruth Curly and Frills, Jan p 30; Long Division for African Violets, not Arithmetic, Mar p 52; Plants, Plants, Plants...aargh..., May p 47
- Covolo, Steve Some Thoughts on "Violet Overload", Nov p 49
- Daugereau, Jenny Office Update, Nov p 5
- Donaho, Wayne What's New on the Internet, Mar p 51; What's New on the Web, Jul p 31
- Douglas, Rena Basic Care and Culture of African Violets, Jul p 19; Let's Go Underground, Jan p 34
- Elkin, Barbara Sacramento Convention '98 - What's Your Line?, Jan p 13; Vintage Violets, Jan p 19; Mar p 38; Jul p 48; Sep p 48; Nov p 27
- Foster, Bill Judging the Show Plant, Nov p 46; Shows and Judges, Jan p 9; Mar p 17; May p 5; Sep p 11
- Gardner, Sue African Violet Sports, May p 13
- Geiss, Don Building a Plant Stand, Nov p 34; Everyone Is An Expert, Jan p 24; Failures In Raising African Violets, May p 33; The Way Down South Club, Jul p 18
- Geiss, Maxine Hide and Seek With A Reservoir, Mar p 20
- Gibbs, Dolores 1998 LSAVC State Convention, Sep p 10
- Goeke, Ruth 1998 AVSA Convention Commercial Display Tables, Sep p 50; Natural Gardens, May p 51
- Goodsell, Barbara
- Green, Bob L.
- Grieco, Ruth
- Grundy, Alice
- Halford, Joan
- Hancock, Pat
- Hayston, Jean
- Henry, Irene
- Hilton, Rita
- Hodges, Sue
- Hoefer, Ed
- Hoffmann, Sue
- Hoover, Darryl
- Iskra, Cal
- Jones, Jackie
- Keating, Iris
- King, Phyllis
- Kosowsky, Dorothy
- Kuperberg, Ann
- Lawson, Floyd
- Lazarus, Marcia
- Leifeste, Connie
- Lind, Keith
- Lundgren, Anna Jean
- Lyons, Bill
- Marchant, W. S.
- Marsh, Barbara J.
- Martens, Dale
- Martin, Frank
- Mayfield, Blake
- McAllen, Carolyn
- McCain, Jean
- McKain, Hal
- Moser, Leta
- Neal, Dave
- Nelson, Shirley
- Nonny-Mousse, A.
- Okishita, Ken'ichi
- Owens, Jim
- Paauwe, Bill
- Parsons, Nadine
- Pershing, Barb
- Pittman, Hortense & Sundown
- Promersberger, Bev
- Rexilius, Jane
- Thrips, Jul p 21; Violets on Vacation, Jul p 45
- Eye on Design - "Rhythm in Design", Nov p 30; Guidelines for Judges, May p 52
- Hopefully Helpful Handy Hints, May p 39
- Regional Reviews, Mar p 42
- Saintpaulia's Family, Nov p 52;
- Violets in Retirement, Jan p 26
- Regional Reviews, Mar p 43
- Fantasies and Other Color Changes, Nov p 48
- Regional Reviews, May p 44
- Growing For The Gold, Jan p 32
- Spring Chores, Mar p 40
- African Violet Bloom Jelly, Jul p 13
- Grooming Is More Important Than You Think!, May p 27; Jul p 8
- Regional Reviews, May p 42
- Regional Reviews, Mar p 44
- Annual Library Message, Jul p 38
- Registration Report, Jan p 22; Mar p 31; May p 38; Jul p 49; Sep p 51; Nov p 54
- Regional Reviews, May p 43
- Best In Show, Next Time!!!, Sep p 18;
- Question Box, Mar p 22; Jul p 30; Nov p 14
- Purple Passion (Poem), May p 37
- 1998 Best Varieties, Nov p 41; AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 41; Send Your Choices, Jan p 35
- Disbudding, Jul p 51
- Exploring Houston, Texas (1999 AVSA Convention April 4-11, 1999), Nov p 55
- Root Rot, Nov p 18
- Tally Time 1997, Mar p 8
- AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 12; Jul p 35; Sep p 13; Nov p 35
- Chimeras, Mar p 34
- School Partnerships, Mar p 28
- Gesneri-Advice, Jan p 38; Mar p 35; May p 26; Jul p 26; Sep p 17; Nov p 9; Regional Reviews, Mar p 44
- My Plant, the Doctor - A Medical Miracle, May p 40
- Blake's Aunt Doris, Sep p 31
- "Pardon Me - I Didn't Catch Your Name", Nov p 26
- Violets Bloom for Maggie, Mar p 46
- 411 - I Hoped I Was Wrong, Sep p 10;
- Tender Handling, Nov p 53
- Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets, Mar p 26; More News on Foliar Feeding, Sep p 26
- African Violet Nutrition (and plants in general), Sep p 34; Nov p 42
- Basics, Nov p 48
- Did You Know?, Sep p 39
- Regional Reviews, May p 45
- Tour Time, Jul p 54
- 1997 Annual Index, Jan p 61
- African Violet Insurance? Plant That Sucker!, Nov p 53
- Soil Mealy Bugs, Jul p 20
- Announcement, Sep p 7
- A Helping Hand Into The Future, Jul p 10;
- Affiliate Update, Nov p 8; AVSA and Affiliates - Growing Together, Jan p 18; May p 34; Sep p 30; Finding Them Where They Are, Sep p 30;
- Hear Ye! Hear Ye!, Jul p 9; Regional Reviews, May p 42; Why Join An Affiliate?, Jan p 18
- Best Articles of 1997 - Certificates of Appreciation, Nov p 17

Richards, Pat	Regional Reviews, Mar p 42; Thinking Small, Jan p 16; May p 30; Jul p 14; Sep p 6; Nov p 12	Stork, Kent and Joyce	For Beginners, Jan p 6; Mar p 13; May p 10; Jul p 6; Sep p 14; Nov p 6
Rinick, Henry B. Jr.	Let Me Tell You About My Wife, Jan p 23	Tlnari, Anne	No Finer Gift (An African violet membership subscription), Nov p 11
Robinson, Dr., Ralph	Notes on Trailing African Violets, May p 22; Question Box, Jan p 10; May p 8; Sep p 8	Trapp, Palma	Regional Reviews, May p 44
Rumsey, Ruth	Editor's Notes, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4	Vinciguerra, Pat	Fantastic Ideas!!, Jan p 31
Sanders, Shirley	From Russia, With Love, Nov p 38	Walbrick, Mary	African Violet Ornaments, Nov p 51; Soil & Potting Mixtures, May p 24
Schroeder, Dorothy	Physan - One More Time, Jul p 21	Walsh, Peggy	A Line on Design, Jul p 45
Simmons, Morgan	People to People: What Society Is All About, Jul p 53	Wadler, Monte	Temperature, Humidity, Air Circulation, Nov p 47
Smith, Dr., Jeff	Concerning Foliar Feeding African Violets, Mar p 26; In Search of New Violets, Jan p 14; Mar p 16; May p 6; Jul p 16; Sep p 12; Nov p 10; More News on Foliar Feeding, Sep p 26; Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Rosette Species, Jul p 46; Some Experiences in Hybridizing with the Species Trailers, May p 14	Welchel, Lynda C.	Join The African Violet Connection Mail Group, Sep p 45
Sorensen, Janice	Denver's 50 Years of African Violets, Sep p 41	Wells, Esther Edwards	President's Message, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3;
Stenger, Joyce	Take a Plant to the Office, Sep p 40	Whitesides, Elizabeth	Keeping Track of Your Collection, May p 36; Not Dead Yet!, Jan p 21
		Wong, Hector	Growing African Violets in Hawaii, Sep p 38
		Yeates, Rose Marie	What a Lifesaver, Jul p 13

1998 TITLES AND SUBJECTS

- A HELPING HAND INTO THE FUTURE, Promersberger, Bev, Jul p 10
Affiliate Liability Insurance, Nov p 5
AFFILIATE UPDATE, Promersberger, Bev, Nov p 8
AFFILIATES - YOU ARE INVITED, Mar p 23
Affiliates, Jan p 18; May p 34; Jul p 9; Sep p 30; Sep p 46; Nov p 8
AFRICAN VIOLET BLOOM JELLY, Hoefer, Ed, Jul p 13
AFRICAN VIOLET INSURANCE? PLANT THAT SUCKER!, Parsons, Nadine,
Nov p 53
AFRICAN VIOLET NUTRITION (AND PLANTS IN GENERAL), Neal, Dave,
Sep p 34; Nov p 42
AFRICAN VIOLET ORNAMENTS, Walbrick, Mary, Nov p 51
AFRICAN VIOLET SCHOOL TIME!, Stork, Kent & Joyce, May p 10; Jul p 6
AFRICAN VIOLET SPORTS, Gardner, Sue, May p 13
African Violet Store, May p 3
Air Circulation, Nov p 47
"AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Corondan, Mary, Jan p 13; Mar p 10; May p 5;
Jul p 22; Sep p 42; Nov p 19
ANNOUNCEMENT, Pittman, Hortense & Sundown, Sep p 7
ANNUAL INDEX, Paauwe, Bill, Jan p 61
ANNUAL LIBRARY MESSAGE, Jones, Jackie, Jul p 38
Aphids, Sep p 9
APPRECIATED BY THE YOUNGEST, Calvert, Penny, Jul p 50
ATTENTION AFFILIATES, Jan p 22; Jan p 26; Jul p 51
ATTENTION: INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS, Mar p 4
Auction, Nov p 24
AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES, Carter, Judith M., Mar p 53
AVSA AND AFFILIATES - GROWING TOGETHER, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18;
May p 34; Sep p 30
AVSA AND TODAY'S TECHNOLOGIES, Carter, John, Jan p 5; May p 49; Sep p 46
AVSA AUCTION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!, Jul p 17
AVSA AWARDS, Jul p 27
AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES, 1998, Jan p 20
AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Lyons, Bill, Jan p 12; Mar p 24; May p 12; Jul p 35;
Sep p 13; Nov p 35
AVSA BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FUND, Blanton, Helen, Jan p 12;
Mar p 24; May p 35; Jul p 34; Sep p 19; Nov p 23
AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, Nov p 51
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK - A REVIEW, Buttram, David, Sep p 20
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK (ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS),
Buttram, David, Nov p 20
AVSA COMMERCIALS - A CLOSER LOOK (MIGHTY MINIS), Buttram, David,
May p 50
AVSA CONVENTION COMMERCIAL DISPLAY TABLES, 1998, Goeke, Ruth,
Sep p 50
AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE, Jan Sup, p A-1
AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 41
AVSA International Convention, 1999, Sep p 24
AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS - 1998, Sep sup, p A-1;
Nov p 5
AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS, 1998, Jul p 5
AWARDS NEEDED FOR THE 1999 HOUSTON CONVENTION, Sep p 46
Awards, Jan p 31; Jul p 27; Nov p 37
BAKING SOIL, May p 49
BASIC CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Douglas, Rena, Jul p 19
BASICS, Nelson, Shirley, Nov p 48
BEST ARTICLES OF 1997 - CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION, Rexilius, Jane,
Nov p 17
BEST IN SHOW, NEXT TIME!!!, Kosowsky, Dorothy, Sep p 18
BEST VARIETIES, 1998, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 41
Black Vine Weevil (on Streptocarpus), Jan p 12
BLAKE'S AUNT DORIS, Mayfield, Blake, Sep p 31
BLOOMING SECRETS, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Nov p 6
BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 17; Mar p 24; May p 35;
Jul p 47; Sep p 16; Nov p 23
Bubble Bowls, Jan p 27
BUILDING A PLANT STAND, Geiss, Don, Nov p 34
CHIMERAS, Marchant, W. S., Mar p 34
Chimeras, May p 9
Classification caveats, Jan p 9
Cair, Sep p 6
COMING EVENTS FORM, Mar p 5
COMING EVENTS, Jan p 39; Mar p 48; May p 48; Jul p 15; Sep p 52; Nov p 51
Computer Information, Mar p 39
CONCERNING FOLIAR FEEDING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Moser, Leta, and
Smith, Dr., Jeff, Mar p 26
CONSTRUCTING AND JUDGING A BUBBLE BOWL, Cornibe, Cathy, Jan p 27
Container Gardens, May p 51
CONVENTION AWARDS, Jan p 41; Mar p 45
Convention Presentations, 1998, Jan Sup, p A-11
CONVENTION QUESTIONS?, Mar p 47
Convention Tours, 1998, Jan Sup, p A-6, Jul p 54
Convention, 1999, Sep p 24; Nov p 55
CURLS AND FRILLS, Coulson, Ruth, Jan p 30
DENVER'S 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Sorensen, Janice, Sep p 41
Design, Jul p 45; Nov p 30
Designs using Minis and Semis, May p 30
DID YOU KNOW?, Nonny-Mousse, A., Sep p 39
DISBUDDING, Lazarus, Marcia, Jul p 51
DISCOVER CALIFORNIA CASUAL!!!, Mar p 5
DISCOVER CALIFORNIA! SESQUICENTENNIAL!!!, Mar p 21
DIVIDING AND CHOOSING BABY PLANTS, Chase, Celine, May p 21
Dividing plants, Mar p 52
Dominant and Recessive Traits, Sep p 12; Nov p 10
Dyna-Gro, Mar p 7; Nov p 44
EDITOR'S NOTES, Rumsey, Ruth, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4;
Nov p 4
ELECTRONIC VIOLETS FOR EVERY COMPUTER, Beckerman, Ellen Wass,
Mar p 39
Elementary school violet project, Jul p 10
Elements (Mineral & Non-Mineral), Jan p 43; Nov p 42

piscias, Sep p 17
 EVERYONE IS AN EXPERT, Geiss, Don, Jan p 24
 EXPLORING HOUSTON, TEXAS (1999 AVSA CONVENTION, APRIL 4-11, 1999),
 Leifeste, Connie, Nov p 55
 EYE ON DESIGN – "RHYTHM IN DESIGN", Green, Bob L., Nov p 30
 EYES OF TEXAS ARE UPON US!, THE, Jul p 27
 FAILURES IN RAISING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Geiss, Don, May p 33
 FANTASIES AND OTHER COLOR CHANGES, Hayston, Jean, Nov p 48
 FANTASTIC IDEAS!!, Vinciguerra, Pat, Jan p 31
 Fertilizer crud, Jul p 31
 Fertilizers, May p 11; Nov p 7; Nov p 43; Nov p 50
 FINDING THEM WHERE THEY ARE, Promersberger, Bev, Sep p 30
 Foliar Feeding, Mar p 26; Sep p 26; Nov p 13
 FOR BEGINNERS, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Jan p 6; Mar p 13; May p 10; Jul p 6;
 Sep p 14; Nov p 6
 FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE, Sanders, Shirley, Nov p 38
 Gesneriads from seed, Mar p 41
 GESNERI-ADVICE, Martens, Dale, Jan p 38; Mar p 35; May p 26; Jul p 26;
 Sep p 17; Nov p 9
 Girl foliage, Nov p 10
 GOODBYE GRANGER GARDENS, Buttram, David, Jan p 40
 GROOMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK!, Hoffmann, Sue,
 May p 27; Jul p 8
 Grooming, Jul p 7; Nov p 48
 GROWING A SHOW PLANT, Brownlie, Doris, Mar p 12
 GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN HAWAII, Wong, Hector, Sep p 38
 GROWING AND SHOWING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Borck, Byron, Nov p 50
 GROWING FOR THE GOLD, Hilton, Rita, Jan p 32
 GROWING LARGE SHOW PLANTS, Burns, Marie, May p 53
 GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES, Green, Bob L., May p 52
 HEAR YE! HEAR YE!, Promersberger, Bev, Jul p 9
 HIDE AND SEEK WITH A RESERVOIR, Geiss, Maxine, Mar p 20
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – JAMES SMITH, Jul p 27
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – JO ANNE MARTINEZ, Jul p 27
 HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD – MARY LOU HARDEN, Jul p 27
 HOPEFULLY HELPFUL HANDY HINTS, Grieco, Ruth, May p 39
 HOW TO "PLANT" A LEAF, Nov p 18
 HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP – IRIS KEATING,
 Jul p 27
 Humidity, Nov p 47
 Hybridizing, May p 14, Jul p 46
 I HOPED I WAS WRONG – 411!, McKain, Hal, Sep p 10
 IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 13
 IN MEMORY – CAROLINE FLEISCH, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – ELIZABETH GATLIN ABRAHAM, Sep p 27
 IN MEMORY – ERNEST THOMSEN, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – EVAN PAUL ROBERTS, Jan p 15
 IN MEMORY – FRANCES BEAVER, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – FRED MOAK, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – HELEN A. GEISLER, Mar p 5
 IN MEMORY – HELEN LEONE MIETZNER, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – NORMA MYLO LETO, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – OPAL RAGSDALE, Jan p 35
 IN MEMORY – PATRICIA C. ISBELL, Sep p 27
 IN MEMORY – PEGGY STAAT, Mar p 5
 IN MEMORY – PHILIP LYNDE HARDEN, May p 17
 IN MEMORY – RALPH REED, Jul p 53
 IN MEMORY – VIOLA J. TUCKER, Jan p 35
 IN SEARCH OF NEW VIOLETS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jan p 14; Mar p 16; May p 6;
 Jul p 16; Sep p 12; Nov p 10
 Insects and Diseases, Jul p 8
 Internet, Mar p 51, Jul p 31; Sep p 45; Sep p 46; Sep p 49
 IS THIS HOW MY VIOLETS SHOULD LOOK?, Stork, Kent and Joyce, Mar p 13
 IT WAS NICE WHILE IT LASTED, Buttram, David, May p 16
 ITEMS NEEDED FOR SECOND ANNUAL AVSA CONVENTION AUCTION, Nov p 24
 JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET CONNECTION MAIL GROUP, Welch, Lynda C.,
 Sep p 45
 Judges' Handbook, May p 3
 JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT, Foster, Bill, and Corrigan, Mary Ann, Nov p 46
 KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR COLLECTION, Whitesides, Elizabeth, May p 36
 LAST CHANCE!, Jan p 31
 Leaf Propagation, Nov p 18
 Leaves (as in 'Plant Barometer'), Mar p 13
 LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY WIFE, Runk, Henry B., Jr., Jan p 25
 LET'S GO UNDERGROUND, Douglas, Rena, Jan p 34
 LETTER FROM A MEMBER, Corse, Nancy R., Nov p 17
 Light requirements, May p 10; Nov p 6; Nov p 50
 Lights, Jan p 11; Sep p 53
 LINE ON DESIGN, A, Walsh, Peggy, Jul p 45
 LONG DIVISION FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS, NOT ARITHMETIC, Coulson, Ruth,
 Mar p 52
 LSAVC STATE CONVENTION, 1998, Gibbs, Dolores, Sep p 10
 MAIL ORDERING, Stork, Kent & Joyce, Jan p 6
 Marathon, Jul p 20
 MASTER LIST OF AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIES AND CULTIVARS, 1998 SUPPLE-
 MENT, Nov Sup. p A-1
 Master Variety List, May p 3
 Merchandise (AVSA), Jul p 40, Jul p 44; Sep p 5; Nov p 40; Nov p 51
 Minutes, Sep p 47
 Misting, Nov p 47
 Mold potting, Nov p 15
 Moon Signs, Mar p 30; May p 41; Jul p 52; Sep p 54; Nov p 45
 MORE NEWS ON FOLIAR FEEDING, Moser, Leta and Smith, Dr., Jeff, Sep p 26
 MY PLANT, THE DOCTOR – A MEDICAL MIRACLE, Martin, Frank, May p 40
 NAME OF THE GAME IS THE NAME, THE, Buttram, David, Mar p 18
 NATURAL GARDENS, Goeke, Ruth, May p 51
 Necks, Sep p 14
 NEEDED: NOMINATIONS FOR THE HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR
 AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP, Jul p 12
 'NET'TIQUETTE, THE LANGUAGE OF THE INTERNET :-), Sep p 49
 NEW ITEMS OFFERED BY AVSA, Jul p 40; Sep p 5; Nov p 40; Nov p 51
 NEW SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER, Jul p 8
 NO FINER GIFT (AN AFRICAN VIOLET MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION),
 Tinari, Anne, Nov p 11
 NOT DEAD YET!, Whitesides, Elizabeth, Jan p 21
 NOTES ON TRAILING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, May p 22
 Nutrients, Jan p 43; Sep p 34; Nov p 7; Nov p 42
 NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Nov p 44
 OFFICE UPDATE, Daugereau, Jenny, Nov p 5
 PARDON ME – I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME", McAllen, Carolyn, Nov p 26
 PARTNER, JOIN THE LONE STAR VIOLET ROUND-UP!", Sep p 24
 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE: WHAT SOCIETY IS ALL ABOUT, Simmons, Morgan, Jul p 53
 pH, Jan p 10; Jan p 43; Sep p 35
 PHYSAN – ONE MORE TIME, Schroeder, Dorothy, Jul p 21
 PLACING AFRICAN VIOLETS UNDER LIGHTS, Sep p 53
 Plant Food, Jan p 44
 PLANTING BY MOON SIGNS, Mar p 30; May p 41; Jul p 52; Sep p 54; Nov p 45
 PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS...AARGH..., Coulson, Ruth, May p 47
 Pot size, May p 8; Nov p 7
 POTS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 21
 Potting mixes, May p 11; May p 24; Sep p 15; Nov p 7
 Potting Tips, Jan p 5; Sep p 15
 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Wells, Esther Edwards, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; May p 3;
 Jul p 3; Sep p 3
 Propagating, Jul p 6
 PURPLE PASSION (Poem), Kuperberg, Ann, May p 37
 QUESTION BOX, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, Jan p 10; May p 8; Sep p 8;
 Kosowsky, Dorothy, Mar p 22; Jul p 30; Nov p 14
 Raspberry-edge plants, Jul p 16
 Record-keeping, May p 36
 REGIONAL REVIEWS, Richards, Pat; Colwell, June; Grundy, Alice; Hancock, Pat;
 Martens, Dale; and Iskra, Cal, Mar p 42; Promersberger, Bev; Hoover, Darryl;
 King, Phyllis; Henry, Irene; Trapp, Palma; Okishita, Ken'ichi, May p 42
 REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 22; Mar p 31; May p 38; Jul p 49;
 Sep p 51; Nov p 54
 REMEMBERING ALMA M. WRIGHT, May p 17
 REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" MADURO, Buttram, David, Nov p 22
 REPORT ON GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS FROM COMMERCIAL SEED, A.
 Arceneaux, K. C., Jan p 46
 Reporting, Jul p 6; Sep p 15
 Rhizomes, Nov p 9
 ROOT ROT, Lind, Keith, Nov p 18
 Roots, Jan p 34; Nov p 7
 Ruffled Foliage, Jan p 30
 SACRAMENTO CONVENTION '98 – WHAT'S YOUR LINE?, Elkin, Barbara,
 Jan p 13

- SAINTPAULIA'S FAMILY, Halford, Joan, Nov p 52
 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS, Broom, Ella H., and Marsh, Barbara J., Mar p 28
 SEASONS GREETINGS, Nov p 3
 SEND YOUR CHOICES, Lawson, Floyd, Jan p 35
 SHOW MANNERS, Bartholomew, Pauline, May p 54
 SHOWS AND JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 9; Mar p 17; May p 5; Sep p 11
 SIGNS OF TROUBLE, Jul p 20
 Sinningias, Sep p 17
 SOIL & POTTING MIXTURES, Walbrick, Mary, May p 24
 SOIL MEALY BUGS, Pershing, Barb, Jul p 20
 Soil recipe, Sep p 8
 SOME EXPERIENCES IN HYBRIDIZING WITH THE ROSETTE SPECIES, Smith, Dr., Jeff, Jul p 46
 SOME EXPERIENCES IN HYBRIDIZING WITH THE SPECIES TRAILERS, Smith, Dr., Jeff, May p 14
 SOME POTTING TIPS THE BOOKS DON'T MENTION, Jan p 5
 SOME THOUGHTS ON "VIOLET OVERLOAD", Covolo, Steve, Nov p 49
 SOME THOUGHTS ON SEED, Beaulieu, John, Mar p 41
 SOMETHING NEW!! AUCTION AT SATURDAY LUNCHEON, Jan Sup, p A-7
 Sports, May p 13
 SPRING CHORES, Hodges, Sue, Mar p 40
 Springtails, Jan p 10
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS, AVSA, Sep p 47
 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, Nov p 24
 Sterilizing soil, May p 49
 STORY OF SUPERMAN, THE, Champion, Ethel, Nov p 16
 Streptocarpus, Sep p 17
 Sucker propagation, Mar p 52; Nov p 53
 Summer care, May p 39
 TAKE A PLANT TO THE OFFICE, Stenger, Joyce, Sep p 40
 TALLY TIME - 1997, Lundgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 8
 Tanzania Wildlife Fund, Sep p 4
 TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY, AIR CIRCULATION, Watler, Monte, Nov p 47
 Temperature, May p 9; Nov p 50
 TENDER HANDLING, McKain, Hal, Nov p 53
 Texas Style potting, Jul p 30
 THANK YOU!, Mar p 45
 THANKS TO THE AVSA MEMBERS FROM COLORADO, Jan p 4
- THANKS TO THE TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, Jan p 4
 THANKS, Jan p 33
 THINKING SMALL, Richards, Pat, Jan p 16; May p 30; Jul p 14; Sep p 6; Nov p 12; Bruns, Janice, Mar p 6
 THRIPS, Goodsell, Barbara, Jul p 21
 TIMELY TIPS, May p 7
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARD - ROCKY MOUNTAIN AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL, Jul p 27
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARDS, Jan p 41
 TIPS FROM TEXAS, May p 45
 TOUR TIME, Owens, Jim, Jul p 54
 Trace elements, Sep p 35; Nov p 42
 Trailing African Violets, Jan p 11; May p 22
 Urea content (fertilizers), Mar p 22; Sep p 35
 VACATION GUIDE, 1998, Buttram, David, May p 18
 VINTAGE VIOLETS, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 19; Mar p 38; Jul p 48; Sep p 48; Nov p 27
 VIOLET GROWER'S "PROP BOX", Nov p 24
 VIOLETS AND ROMANCE, Coleman, Kyle, Mar p 11
 VIOLETS BLOOM FOR MAGGIE, McCain, Jean, Mar p 46
 VIOLETS IN RETIREMENT, Halford, Joan, Jan p 26
 VIOLETS ON VACATION, Goodsell, Barbara, Jul p 45
 Watering methods, May p 46; Nov p 49
 Watering requirements, May p 10; Nov p 6
 WATERING YOUR VIOLET, Nov p 49
 WATERING, May p 46
 WAY DOWN SOUTH CLUB, THE, Geiss, Don, Jul p 18
 WE DISCOVERED CALIFORNIA! (Pictures), Jul p 42
 Website, Mar p 3; Mar p 51
 WHAT A LIFESAVER!, Yeates, Rose Marie, Jul p 13
 WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?, Jul p 34
 WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PLANTS - HUNGER SIGNS IN VIOLETS, Cole, Dr., Charles, Jan p 43
 WHAT'S NEW ON THE INTERNET, Donaho, Wayne, Mar p 51
 WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB, Donaho, Wayne, Jul p 31
 WHY JOIN AN AFFILIATE?, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 18
 Wick-watering caveats, May p 8
 Yearbooks, Jan p 22

1998 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

- BERTHA - (Foster), Nov p 37
 B-MAN SURPRISE - (Curcuruto), Mar p 37
 BOGEY MAN - (Scott), Jan cover
 CATHY'S FIREWORKS - (C. Cornibe), Sep p 28
 CIRELDA - (Tracey), Jul p 33
 COLUMNEA 'BROGET STAVANGER', Nov p 33
 COLUMNEA 'JULIA' - Jul p 37
 COOL BLUE - (Pittman), Jul p 32
 DEAN'S IVORY LACE - (Hobbs), Nov p 28
 DEER PATH - (J. Gehr), Nov cover
 DELFT IMPERIAL - (Eyerdorn), Jul p 28
 EDEE - (Patt Harris), Sep p 33
 EPISCIA 'CLEOPATRA' - Sep p 37
 FANTASY FRECKLES - (Tinari), Nov p 36
 FAVORITE CHILD - (Cox/Johnson), Sep p 29
 FLOWER CHILD - (Sorano), Jul p 32
 HONEY BERRY - (Pittman), Jan p 36
 HULA HOOP - (Sorano), Sep cover
 IRISH SWEEPS - (Unknown), Jan p 29
 KOHLERIA 'LAURA' - Jan p 36
 LELA MARIE - (Lineberg), Jan p 28
 LITTLE CHATTERBOX - (Sorano), Sep cover
 LITTLE PRO - (Pittman), Jan cover
 LYON'S JUNE BUG - (Sorano), Jul p 29
 MAMA'S LITTLE SPORT - (Ruby Cox), Nov p 36
 MS. SMARTYPANTS - (Sorano), Sep cover
 NESS' PIXIE GRIN - (Ness), Nov p 32
 NIGHT MAGIC - (Pittman), Mar cover
- NOB HILL - (Beck), Sep p 29
 PETTIE JEWEL - (Pittman), Jan cover
 PHOSPHORESCENCE - (Tinari), Mar p 32
 QUIET ACCORD - (Elkin), May p 29
 RAINBOW'S QUIET RIOT - (Wasmund), May cover
 REBEL'S ASTRO SPINNER - (Bann), Mar p 32
 REBEL'S CUCUMBER KOOL - (Bann), Nov p 28
 REBEL'S VALIANT - (Bann), May p 29
 ROB'S FUDDY DUDDY - (Robinson), Jul cover
 ROB'S MACHO DEVIL - (Robinson), Sep p 32
 ROB'S TWINKLE BLUE - (Robinson), Sep p 32, Nov p 32
 RUN FOR COVER - (Stork), Mar p 36
 SADDLE SHOES - (Stork), Nov p 29
 SAINTPAULIA BREVIPILOSA, May p 32
 SAINTPAULIA GRANDIFOLIA #299 - Jul p 33
 SAINTPAULIA SHUMENSIS, May p 32
 SAINTPAULIA VELUTINA LIGHT, May p 32
 SAPPHIRE HALO - (Boone), Mar p 33
 SOCKEYE - (Stork), Jul p 29
 STAINED GLASS - (Wasche), May p 28
 STRAWBERRY WAVE - (Sorano), Sep p 36
 STREPTOCARPUS 'ROSE BUD' - May p 28
 SUNCOAST LAVENDER SILK - (Williams), Jan p 37
 SUNCOAST PAISLEY PRINT - (Williams), Sep p 36
 SUNNYSIDE ROMA - (Unknown), Sep p 28
 TEEN THUNDER - (Pittman), Mar cover
 TEXAS SPACE DUST - (Pittman), Jul p 28
 WINDSOME - (PITTMAN), Mar cover



African Violets

QK1
.A3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February 1999

Volume 52

Number 1

AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 1146 Opal St. #102, Broomfield, CO 80020.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rrumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February

Volume 52

Number 1

CONTENTS

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

FEATURES

JAN 08 1999

Crown Rot in African Violets - Joyce Stork	5
1999 AVSA Nominees	6
Pre-Show Grooming - Kyle Coleman	9
Spreading the Cheer - Amy L. Cash	20
AVSA Scholarship Application Instructions	21
Powdery Mildew	21
Something New is Coming - Ron Davidson & Bill Foster	22
Let's Go to Convention! - Linda Golubski	26
Interpretive Flower Arrangements - Edna Rourke	38

Growing Tips - Ina Beaver.	39
Planting by Moon Signs	41
Vigorous Violets; Science Project - Joshua Patel	42
Propagating African Violets	43
The Joy of Growing African Violets - Anne Tinari	44
Violets Are Meant to be Enjoyed - Sarah McGaha	45
Grow the Best and Leave the Rest - Steve Covolo	47
Who Said it Was Easy? - Don Geiss	50
Transporting Plants to Show - Barb Pershing	51

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

DEPARTMENTS

JAN 08 1999

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	10
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	11
For Beginners - Cathy & Al Cornibe	12
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondon	15
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	15
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	16
Registration Report - Iris Keating	18
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	22
Coming Events	23
Members	24
AVSA Building Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	27

Showcase (1)	28
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	30
Showcase (2)	32
In Search of new Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	34
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	35
Showcase (3)	36
Color Photo	40
AVSA Affiliates - Bev Promersberger	46
1998 Annual Index - Bill Paauwe	61

CONVENTION

Convention Information	Center Insert
Last Chance - Linda Golubski	10
Convention Update	19
Convention Awards for 1999 - Linda Golubski	48

COVER

California Berries
1998 New Introduction
Grown and Exhibited by:
Shannon Ahlman
Hybridized by:
Ruby Cox
Photo Credit:
Winston Goretsky



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 56
AGGS 58
Alannah's Greenhouses 52
American Orchid Society 58
AV Enterprises Press 53
AVS of Canada 60
AVSA Address Labels 58

B

Bayou Violets 56
Belisle's Violet House 60

C

Cape Cod Violetry . . . Inside Back
Cover
Cryptanthus Society 60

D

Desert Violets 57
Dyna Gro. 60

F

Florals of Fredericks 56

H

Herbal Garden Ceramics 60
Hobby Greenhouse 60

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 57

J

JF Industries 56

M

Mighty Minis 57

N

Neptune's Harvest 56

O

Optimara 25

P

Pat's Pets 57
Prairie Violets 58

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 54
Rozell Nursery 52

S

Shirley's House of Violets 55
Sonja's AV's 53
Source Technology 57

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 58
Teas Nursery 53
Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover
Travis' Violets 52

V

Violets by Appointment 60
Violets From the Starrs 53
Violet House 59
Violet Showcase 55
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses . . . 56



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: jwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: Janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

Happy
New Year



President's Message

Dear AVSA Members:

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and that you were able to spend some special time with family and friends.

The Christmas Ornaments announced by the Ways and Means Committee in the November AVM were received in the AVSA Office December 1. If you have not placed your order, call the AVSA Office right away. The ornaments featuring 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' and 'Ms. Smartypants', Best in Show and Best New Introduction, respectively, at the AVSA Convention last year, make a beautiful display year round.

The Technology Committee and our office staff continue to find new ways to improve procedures in the AVSA Office using the new computer system. New credit card software has been installed, making processing of credit card orders much more efficient. Jenny Daugereau, Office Administrative Coordinator, has taken several computer classes during the summer and fall and is becoming quite proficient with the new computer system and software. John Carter, Technology Committee Chairman, is now working with Ruth Rumsey, Editor, to upgrade the computer equipment used in the production of the *African Violet Magazine*.

During the last few months, Wayne Donaho, Internet Committee Chairman and Webmaster, developed an African Violet Screen Saver featuring 96 images of African violets and other gesneriads. The screen saver is available only on the Internet at http://www.avsa.org/store/african_violet_screen_saver.htm. The cost of the African Violet Screen Saver is only \$9.99. Another new feature on the AVSA Web Site is a shopping cart. Now you can place credit card orders for AVSA products directly from the Web Site through a secure connection over the Internet.

Joe Bruns, author of the First Class MVL program, has written a new computer program to process entries at convention shows. The Entries Program was tested at several affiliate shows around the country during the fall. We received so many favorable comments, the Executive Committee decided to make the program available to all affiliates at a nominal charge. An announcement concerning the availability of the Entries Program is included elsewhere in this issue of the AVM. The show entry cards sold by the AVSA Office will be changed slightly so that they can be used by the Entries Program to print entry cards automatically.

Plans for the 1999 Convention in Houston are well underway. One of the highlights of the week's activities will be a tour to the AVSA Office and Becker Printing in Beaumont. Editor Ruth Rumsey and the staff at Becker Printing are arranging to have the May 1999 issue of the AVM running on the printing presses during the tour. Several other exciting tours are planned, along with the second annual AVSA Auction. Check the purple pages in this magazine for all of the exciting details about the convention in April and get your reservation in early for the "Lone Star Violet Round-Up."

At the request of our office staff, office hours for the AVSA Office in Beaumont will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (instead of 5:30) during the winter months since it gets dark earlier. As part of our regular maintenance program, the sidewalks at the AVSA Office Building in Beaumont were replaced in November. In addition, AVSA Director Ron Davidson, a structural engineer, has inspected the AVSA Office Building and is preparing a report concerning other maintenance needs.

Affiliate Committee Chairman Bev Promersberger has developed a new form to request information from our affiliates. The information will be used by the office staff to make referrals to affiliates and on the Web Site. The new form was mailed to all affiliates with the Affiliate Liability Insurance information in the fall. If your affiliate has not submitted the information form, please do so as soon as possible.

As we begin a new year, I hope each of you finds much enjoyment from your favorite plants.

Happy New Year!

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rurumsey@earthlink.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope your holidays were filled with love and laughter, and that each of you are looking forward to the excitement a new year brings. Right before Christmas, "Gesneri-Advice" columnist, **Dale Martens** of League City, TX, paid a visit to the AVSA office. We had earlier discussed the beautiful McFaddin-Ward House, an historic home included on the convention tour to Beaumont in April. Although there were few flowers blooming at the time, the home was beautifully decorated for the holidays. Located only 3 blocks from the AVSA office, the grounds and house are meticulously cared for and the lavish gardens should be in full bloom in April.

Again I encourage all of you to stop by the AVSA office whenever you are in our area. We are getting excited about having you visit the beautiful AVSA Office as part of the tour to Beaumont. I think you'll see why Jenny, Tammi and I love working in this environment. The tall ceilings, high windows, and spacious rooms are offset by the stands of violets the members of the **AVS of Beaumont** tend for us.

Becker Printing, publisher of the AVM is also included on this tour and we plan to have the color section for the May issue on the presses when the tour arrives.

This issue contains the Convention Insert, the "purple pages", with everything you need to know about the Houston Convention in April. Also, read page 19 in the AVM for helpful ideas on what to pack for your trip.

Also on this page is information about the 2nd Annual AVSA Auction to be held at the Saturday luncheon. This event was a lot of fun last year, and everyone is encouraged not only to attend, but to contribute violet-related items to be auctioned.

Your AVSA Nominees for 1999 are listed beginning on

page 6. Read the brief biographies of the very dedicated violet folks who will be working for the future of AVSA.

One of the nominees, **Edna Rourke**, has contributed another interesting article to the AVM, this time on "Interpretive Flower Arrangements", page 38.

Anne Tinari spreads the word on African violets wherever she goes. On page 44 read, "The Joy of Growing African Violets", based on a talk Anne gave at the Philadelphia Flower Show last year.

Our Affiliates Chairman, **Bev Promersberger**, gives all our clubs pointers on attracting new members at annual spring and fall shows (page 46). When your club received the insurance information from the AVSA office, they also received an Affiliate information form. Bev urges you to see that the form is completed and mailed as soon as possible.

We heard again from the "Violet Repairman", **Don Geiss**. Read about some more of Don's violet experiences on page 50, "Who Said It Was Easy?" Don and Maxine will be wintering in south Texas again this year and plan to make the convention in Houston. They have even generously offered to work at the AVSA Sales Table with me!

As reported earlier, AVSA is offering a college scholarship. Read the brief article on page 21 to learn the criteria and find out how to apply.

On Page 61 find the Annual Index for 1998, compiled by **Bill Paauwe**. This easy-to-use reference comes in handy when you want to look up an article from a past issue, or get a look at one of the African violets featured throughout the year.

Be sure to order your 1999 catalogues from our AVSA Commercial Members and support all of our AVM advertisers!



CROWN ROT IN VIOLETS

by Joyce Stork

One of the more common afflictions of African violets is crown rot. We often refer to it as disease, but in fact it is a symptom of one of several pathogens. In many cases crown rot can be avoided if growing methods are improved. But once a grower sees crown rot, it is crucial to act quickly before other plants are affected. To do that, it is helpful to know which pathogen that causes crown rot is present. The two most common fungi of this type are pythium and phytophthora both of which are Oomycetes or water molds. Oomycetes thrive in conditions where there is abundant moisture and most often reach plant tissues via water pathways. There are numerous species of each of these which may vary slightly in their attack. They both become more dangerous (pathogenic) when there is high soil moisture, low supplies of oxygen, and salt levels are high. African violets are very vulnerable when potting mixes are heavy!

Phythium is the most commonly found fungus causing root and crown diseases. Spores remain dormant but present most of the time in growing areas until conditions are present to encourage its growth. It typically attacks roots, first causing decay. Roots may look brown, water-soaked, glassy or shriveled. As the fungus moves into the main stem, it will blacken and become slimy. The decayed skin or cortex is easily stripped away. Above ground, leaves will wilt and the center will begin to stunt as the roots are destroyed. It is especially active in pasteurized or soil-less media where there are fewer competing microorganisms. When the disease is active, all diseased plants and plant tissue must be removed and discarded to prevent further contamination. Potting mixes should be adjusted to provide more air and drainage. Sub irrigation (bottom watering) must be done with care to minimize the amount of time that roots are inundated with water. Several fungicides are available to target phythium.

Phytophthora may be less prevalent but it makes up for the difference by being most virulent. It most commonly attacks roots, but is capable of invading other plant tissues as well if conditions are very moist. Phytophthora is especially active above 80 degrees Fahrenheit but can grow at somewhat cooler temperatures as well. The first above ground symptom is wilting of leaves, then darkening of the crown leaves. Roots deteriorate and the center core of the main stem decays and becomes hollow with vertical brown streaks forming above as the disease extends itself. Treatment is similar to phythium in that good sanitation

and specific fungicides are required.

Several other crown rot diseases are listed for African violets including *Cylindrocarpus destructans*, *rhizoctonia solani*, *fusarium*, and *sclerotinia*. All of these are less likely but possible culprits. *Fusarium* is far more likely to cause trouble during propagation than it is after plants have matured. All of these thrive under moist, warm conditions, and several benefit from the presence of high salt levels in the soil. The primary reason for mentioning the more remote fungi is that these are a different type of fungi than *pythium* and *phytophthora* and often require different fungicides to obtain control.

Crown rot can also result from a bacterium called *Erwinia*. It is not often reported in African violets, nonetheless it is wise to be familiar with it since it can cause serious losses in a few days. *Erwinia* results in a mushy rot of the crown and stem. Affected plants will stunt and collapse as the bacteria moves upward. The bacterium is often present in growing areas and again most often travels in water. The bacteria may come in contact with plant tissue and remain dormant until favorable conditions develop. Favorable conditions would be tissue wounds (like those caused by disbudding and leaf grooming) in combination with warm temperatures (above 80 degrees Fahrenheit) and most conditions. Once again, it is important to implement good sanitation and use proper sprays to prevent the spread. It is also very important to keep growing area temperatures near the optimum 72 degrees recommended for violets.

Crown rot is most likely to occur whenever violets are in highly saturated soil. All of the pathogens that cause crown rot prefer very moist and warm conditions. Many thrive in our soil-less mediums because there is less bacteria. Many also benefit from excessive fertilizer salts. Because of our style of growing violets are very vulnerable to crown rot. To avoid it, we must provide as much air circulation as possible to avoid warm, moist air pockets. We must space plants to avoid crowding. We must use soils that are very porous to promote air around roots and good drainage. We must use very sanitary methods of growing to prevent cross-contamination. We must keep air temperatures in a safe range. To get rid of it, we must use the proper chemicals for the pathogen that is present.

Reprinted with permission from MVAVS Council News

INTRODUCING YOUR 1998 NOMINEES TO THE AVSA BOARD



For President: Bill Foster

Bill Foster has been a member of AVSA for 25 years and a Life Member since 1985. He is a master judge and a teacher. He served as Affiliate Chairman for AVSA from 1986-1990 when he was appointed to the job of AVSA Chairman of Shows and Judges,

a job he still holds.

Bill is a member and past president of the First Nighter AVS of Dallas, a past president of the First AVS of Dallas, a charter member and past president of North Texas African Violet Judges Council, a member and past president of The Lone Star African Violet Council, and an honorary member of Alpha AVS of Dallas. He served as convention chairman for the AVSA convention in Dallas in 1988. He has served on the AVSA Executive Committee as First, Second, and Third Vice President.

Bill retired in 1986 after a 31 year career with Atlantic Richfield. He has been married to Paula, who is also very involved in African violets and AVSA, for over 40 years. They have a daughter and a son.

Other than hybridizing and caring for their many violets and club activities, Bill and Paula enjoy woodcrafting.



For First Vice President: John (Jack) E. Wilson

Jack, a native of Springfield, Ohio, lived in both Florida and California during a 30 career in the U. S. Navy and now lives in Manassas, Virginia with his wife of 32 years, Pat. He has grown African violets for over 42 years and been a member of AVSA over 30 years. He is a life member, a senior judge and teacher and has attended 18 AVSA conventions. He has been an AVSA Director, Chairman of the Membership and Promotion Committee and is presently conducting the Open Forum after the Annual Membership Meeting at each convention. He is the AVSA 3rd vice president. While in California from 1967 to 1985 he was an active member of the Balboa Park AVS in San Diego and the Judges Council of Southern California. He is the Virginia Director for Dixie AVS, a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic AVS and a member of the American

Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. He is active in the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges and the Old Dominion AVS in Northern Virginia. Jack also belongs to the American Orchid Society and the American Conifer Society. He is a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course and has a BA in behavioral science and an MBA. He is a consultant for procurement and quality issues.



For Second Vice President: Janet Reimer

Janet Reimer is from Pennington, New Jersey and has been a member of AVSA since 1964. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969 and has served in many offices for the club. Janet is an AVSA

Honorary Life Member and a Master Judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the Tri-State AV Council since 1971 and is a great promoter of the much loved Max Mass hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA as director and secretary. She received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership and has received a Continuing Service Award.

She is married and presently works as a preservation archivist in Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers University.



For Third Vice President: Linda Owens

Linda Owens of Columbus, Ohio has been a member of AVSA for 15 years, is a Life Member, a Senior Judge and a Teacher. She is a member of the Springfield African Violet Club and the Columbus African Violet Society where

she has held numerous offices and committee positions. She has been a member of the Ohio State Judges Council since she became a judge. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Ohio State African Violet Society and was Convention Chairman for the recent convention.

Her first AVSA convention was in Orlando in 1987, and she has attended each convention since then, serving as Convention Chairman for the 1992 Convention in Columbus. She was a member of the Board of Directors from 1990 through 1992 serving on the Finance committee. Since 1995, she has served as Assistant Convention Director and is currently also serving as Finance Committee Chairman.

She has three step-children and five grandsons. She and her husband Jim have been married for 24 years.



For Secretary: Sue Ramser, of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for 23 years. She has served as show chairman, secretary, treasurer, vice president and president five times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, secretary, vice president, and president. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as corresponding secretary, secretary, vice president and president.

At the AVSA Convention in Austin in 1978, she was a member of the classification committee and in 1988 was the president's aide for the AVSA Convention in Dallas. She has served as vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director in 1990, has served as AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator for the past two years. She serves as secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, senior judge and teacher, and in 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools".

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband, Charles, is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. The Ramser family was selected as Wichita Falls' Family of the Year in 1989. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.



For Treasurer: Meredith Hall of Houston, has been a member of AVSA for 25 years, and a Life Member since 1978. She is a senior judge and a teacher.

Meredith attended her first AVSA convention in Austin in 1978 and has

attended every one since. She formerly owned The African Violetry, selling plants and supplies to retail customers.

A director of the Dixie AVS, she is past president of Lone Star African Violet Council, Central Texas Judges Council, the African Violet Study Club of Houston and the Spring Branch AVC. Currently she is co-chairman for Commercial Sales Exhibits and Publications. Meredith served as advertising manager for the AVM for seven years.

Her hobbies are ceramics, sewing and gardening – especially hibiscus, of which she has a large collection.



For Director: Helen Blanton of St. Charles, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA for twelve years. She is a member of, and has served as president for the Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis Judges Council, Amethyst AVC, and is currently president of the Katy Trail AVC. She is also

a member of the Missouri Valley AV Council.

Helen has attended the last seven AVSA conventions, and is presently the Chairman of the AVSA Building Maintenance Fund, and an advanced AVSA Judge.

Helen enjoys creating African violet designs, as well as quilting, counted cross stitch, crochet, travel and antique shopping. Married to husband, Homer, for 37 years, they have three grown sons and three terrific grandsons.



For Director: Alice Easter of North Wales, Pennsylvania, has been involved with African violets for over 25 years. A Life Member of AVSA, Alice is a past president of the AVS of Philadelphia and a current member of AVSA's Membership and Promotion Committee.

Alice has attended 21 AVSA conventions, as well as several state conventions. A member of the Tristate AV Council, and Mid-Atlantic AVS, she has judged many African violet shows along the east coast.

Alice has also helped spread the love of African violets by conducting workshops and demonstrations in the Philadelphia area, including Center-in-the-Park and at several senior citizen centers.

In her spare time Alice is a doll collector.



For Director: Georgette Jolivet of Higley, Arizona has been a member of the AVSA for 15 years, and has recently passed a judging school exam which promoted her to an advanced judge effective July of next year. She has served on several committees including Secretary, Show Chairman, and Judges

Chairman in Louisiana, and Arizona.

She is also a member of the AVSA Judges Council of Southern California, and the African Violet Council of Southern California.

Her hobbies include, growing African violets for competition, and creating designs for dish gardens and terrariums. She has won several "Best Container Gardens" in her affiliate clubs. Horticulturally speaking, Georgette has won several "Best In Class" and "Best In Section" awards. She collects tea pots, loves music, and performs special music in church. She loves to sew and travel with her husband when time permits. She is married to the Legendary King Karl, a blues and pop artist who was inducted to the Louisiana Hall of Fame in April, 1998. Together they have 8 children, 17 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. She loves spending time with her grandchildren.



For Director: Barbara Pershing from Cedar Falls, Iowa has a PhD from Iowa State University in Home Economics Education. She recently retired from the University of Northern Iowa's Department of Design, Family and Consumer Science as Associate Professor having taught in the areas of

Management, Consumer Education, Adult Education and Family Relationships for 25 years. She served on numerous professional committees in a variety of capacities in the department, university, and in state and national organizations including President of the Iowa Home Economics Association.

She has been a member of AVSA since 1993 and the Cedar Valley African Violet Club since its beginning in 1991. She started the club newsletter and yearbook and is the newsletter editor of the *The Bloomin' Violet* and currently is club President. Several of her articles have been published in the *African Violet Magazine* and she has given presentations on African violets locally. Barbara has been co-chairperson of the CVAVC show/sale for four years and was instrumental in having the show become an AVSA Standard show. She has attended three AVSA conventions. Barbara is a Student Judge and has completed the requirements to become an Advanced Judge in 1999.

She is a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, AGGS, and participates in the "gesneriphiles" internet group.

Barbara can't remember when she wasn't interested in African violets, growing up in a home where her mother grew many violets. She didn't become a serious grower until she and her husband moved into a home where she has space and time, now that she is retired. She is currently growing over 300 violets and other gesneriads and has over time grown over 400 different varieties. She enjoys growing show plants and exhibiting at AVSA MVAVC and local club shows.

In addition to African violets and other gesneriads, her interests include gardening (she is an Iowa Master Gardener), travel (she attended a violet show in Australia), genealogy, quilting, reading, and aviation (she has a private pilot's license). Barbara and her husband Rex have five grown children and nine grandchildren.



For Director: Edna Rouke of Shelton, CT has been a member of AVSA since 1976. Edna is a member of Naugatonic AVS and has chaired and staged over 30 shows. She is currently president and has served on many committees. She is treasurer of the Nutmeg State AVS and has served as

editor of its newsletter for 8 years. Edna belongs to the Tri-State Judges Council, the Mid Atlantic AVS, the Dixie AVS, the AOL based African Violet Club and the AV Connection.

Edna Co-Chaired the Staging Committee for the Boston Convention. She has presented design workshops both at the Boston and Lancaster Conventions, and has written many articles for the *African Violet Magazine*. Edna currently serves on the Affiliates Committee and the Booster Fund Committee.

Edna has been married for 25 years and has 2 sons. Edna currently works for the Headmaster for the Shelton Intermediate School for the Shelton Board of Education.

In addition to African violets, gesneriads and hybridizing Edna enjoys crafts, painting, computers, needlework of all kinds and is an avid reader.

Due to business and family responsibilities, Second Vice President Lynn Lombard requested that the Nominating Committee rescind their nomination of her for First Vice President.

Pre-Show Grooming

by Kyle Coleman
Fort Worth, TX

I have two favorite grooming techniques to prepare violets for show: disbudding and disblossoming. These techniques efficiently exploit nature to improve the quality of my show plants. Although they are similar in some respects, the objectives of these two techniques are very different, but the techniques compliment each other to work collectively for a better show plant.

These techniques efficiently exploit nature to improve the quality of my show plants. Left to themselves, violets would never produce a large abundance of blooms at one time — they are naturally ever blooming and would prefer to have one to three bloom stalks blooming at any one time. A young violet may only have one stalk at a time, and a mature violet may have about three — one about ready to finish blooming, one in its prime, and one just starting to bloom. This growth habit does not consistently produce dense bloom clusters that may cover a plant. Violets in natural bloom usually have several spent blossoms (unless they have already been removed), several brand new blooms, and the rest of the blooms are in various stages in between. Disbudding encourages the formation of a heavy bloom cycle, and disblossoming helps prevent spent blossoms at show time and allows the blooms to be more uniform in freshness at show time.

Although they have goals similar in some respects, the objectives of these two techniques are very different. Disbudding is removing the flower buds to encourage faster, healthier, bigger, more-uniform violet growth until you are ready to let the violet bloom for the show. Disblossoming is removing the blossoms that have opened too early to be fresh at the show. Disbudding may be used throughout the life of a show plant — up until a few weeks before the show. Disblossoming is generally used once or twice about a week or two before the show and after disbudding has been discontinued in preparation for a show. Timed in this way, these techniques compliment each other to work collectively for a better show plant.

When I disbud, I remove the entire flower stalk (peduncle) except for the bottom one inch, as shown in the figure. (I have found that leaving a one inch stalk discourages

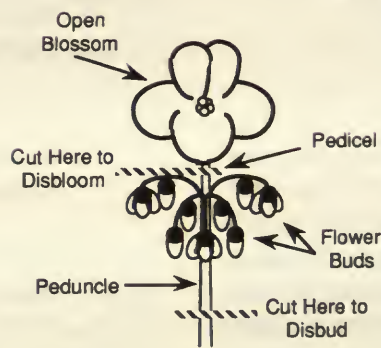


Figure -- Disbudding and Disblossoming.

suckering and makes removing the stub before the show much easier.) Because my conditions are relatively warm, I continue to disbud until about five weeks prior to the show. Cooler conditions may require stopping earlier. If you forget to stop early enough (such as stopping at four weeks instead of five), you may be able to recover that time by extending your violets' day — leave the plant lights on for up to 25% more time each day.

Disblossoming is a very variety-specific grooming technique. In order to be effective, all of the early blooms that open after you have stopped disbudding (but early enough to be spent by show time) must be removed. In this technique, only the open blooms and their pedicels are removed — leave all unopened buds as shown in the figure. Since the blooms on some cultivars last much longer than others, I recommend timing the life span of a single bloom; however if this is not possible, a general rule of thumb is to expect semi-double and double blossoms to last about two to three weeks (from the time they are fully open) and to expect (dropping) singles to last just a few days (maybe six). Using this time table, remove all open semi-double and double blooms about two and a half weeks prior to the show, and remove all (dropping) singles about four days before the show. Remember, blooms typically last longer in cool conditions than in warm conditions, and bloom life is more dependent on the specific cultivar. For me, the double blooms of 'Magnolia' last an incredible five weeks, while the double blooms of 'Snow Rose' last only about ten days.

If you have not used disbudding or disblossoming on your show plants, perhaps you should consider them for your next crop of show violets. You may wish to experiment a little with just one plant or two, just to see how it works for your conditions. These techniques have given me equal success with large standards (such as 'Magnolia') and with semiminatures (such as 'Pride of Columbus', 'Happy Teen', and 'Precious Pink'), and with miniatures (such as 'Peppermint Girl'). Don't be afraid to exploit the violet's natural growth habits to produce a better show plant. These techniques may just become your favorite show grooming techniques, too.

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

Happy New Year! Hopefully, your resolutions for the New Year include plans for a trip to Houston, Texas for the AVSA Convention. I promise you that my fellow Texans will do their best to make your visit a memorable experience. Be sure to read all the convention information carefully and register early. Try to make time for some of the great tours that have been planned for your enjoyment.

I apologize for having to eat "crow" again, but I have another minor change for you to make in your Handbook. Please go to page 81. Number 7 at the top of the page should show (See page 75) rather than page 73. Maybe we will not find any more corrections, but if we do, we'll just eat more crow and tell you about them.

If you checked the judges' list in September and your name wasn't there, check to see that you renewed your membership. The only reason a judge, with a valid certificate, would be removed is failure to renew their membership. If this happens and you renew your membership within three months, you will be reinstated as a judge at your current level. If you fail to renew within three months you will be required to start over as a student judge. Here are some additions or changes to the September list.

ADD: j Libby Watkins, RR3, Box 509A
Bloomington, IL 61704

j Anne Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr.
Denton, TX 77388

j Fred Packer, 20 MaFalda Dr.
Buffalo, NY 14215

s Dorothy Maruscak, 150 McCook St.
Pittsburg, PA 15212

Go to the Illinois list and change the level of Frances Jarnowski to j rather than s. The following members are deceased and should be deleted from the list:

Mrs. Roy Lockhart, Alabama

Frances Beaver, Kansas

Norma Weir, Kansas

We apologize for these errors, but again, Affiliates should make an effort to notify us of the death of judges in their clubs. It is impossible for the judges' list to be absolutely correct. We have to allow time for printing, etc. The status of our judges change constantly, so if your membership or judges certificate expires, or your status changes before July 1, your name will probably not be on the list and your status will probably not be changed. If your certificate expires after July 1, you will still be shown as a judge. I maintain an up-to-date file so if you are unsure of the validity of a judge's status, you may contact me.

Be sure to send your requests to judge or clerk early. I look forward to seeing you in Houston.

**LAST
CHANCE!**

Looking forward to the Houston Convention in April, it's time to get in your award. Any award received by February 15, 1999 will be published in the Convention Souvenir Book. Don't be left out. Check the list of awards already received and see if your club, council or affiliate appear. If not, will you ask them to sponsor a Convention Award? Please send your awards made payable to **AVSA CONVENTION FUND**, and mail them to:
Linda L. Golubski, Awards Committee Chairman
1416 N. W. "A" Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 (after 6:00 P.M. CST)
golubski@kc.net

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Judging Gesneriads

Heavy thunderstorms and possible hail were predicted for the afternoon. That didn't deter 34 Texas violet and gesneriad growers from attending a gesneriad judging school I taught sponsored by the Central Texas AV Judges Council! Many drove several hours to attend. The majority were violet judges with no intention of taking the AGGS test, but just wanted to learn more about gesneriads. That was fine with me! This shows the dedication Texans have to their hobby and predicts the determination they have to make the 1999 AVSA Convention in Houston one of the best ever!

There's a mistaken notion that a gesneriad has to be rare or unusual to be a winner. At the national gesneriad convention in 1998, where entries included many uncommon gesneriads, I won 2nd Best Gesneriad with a 2-1/4 inch pot filled with the micro-miniature *Sinningia* pusilla. That's not a rare plant at all. I was told by many that my little pot of *S. pusilla* was the very best they'd ever seen this plant grown. That's why it won such an honor. If the very best common gesneriad received the same point score as a rare or uncommon gesneriad that was the very best anyone had seen, then the honor would probably go to the rare or uncommon gesneriad. Please note the word choice, "*probably*." There's **no set rule** as to which should win. Best in Show went to a 4 inch pot of *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii* 'Topaz' exhibited by Barbara Krueger. Again, not the most uncommon plant exhibited.

For multiple plantings of one named hybrid or species, not every plant in the pot has to be in bud or bloom. Keep in mind that gesneriads often have immature shoots or stolens that can't possibly be expected to have buds and blossoms. As with my *S. pusilla* entry, the majority of the mature plants in that pot should have blossoms or buds evenly dispersed and not one-sided. If there are 2 or 3 mature plants in a pot and one plant has neither colored buds or blossoms, then that's a problem.

There's some prejudice about rhizomatous plants receiv-

ing best in show. Since most rhizomatous plants sprout around February and are a dried out mess about December, their life spans are quite short. Some think a plant that's obviously much older should win. Let me tell you that a short-lived rhizomatous plant has to have some very careful attention in order to be the very best it can be. The culture must be perfect at all times without allowing the soil to dry out. If the most perfect rhizomatous plant was competing against the most perfect very old plant, then *probably* the older plant would win. I don't want you to automatically dismiss a rhizomatous plant as a potential best in show. I happened to win Best Gesneriad at the Texas Lone Star Convention with a non-blooming *Smithiantha zebrina*. My goodness, a non-blooming rhizomatous plant won! Trust me, I modestly announce it was the very best *Smithiantha zebrina* ever grown.

African violet judges frequently ask me, "How do I judge a gesneriad I've never seen before?" My advice in judging a plant you've never seen before is to follow the AVSA score sheet, but give the plant the benefit of the doubt. There are no set rules on how a gesneriad must be grown. They may be staked with inconspicuous ties and have neutral ground cover.

Remember that many gesneriads aren't strong bloomers and some have blossoms lasting a day or so. Those gesneriads may get full points for Quantity of Bloom for only 2 or 3 blossoms! Fruits, and colorful bracts or calyces count towards the blossom count and towards points for **Ornamental Value**. Additionally for Ornamental Value scoring: Is there a special growth habit, form, color, or texture? Condition scoring: Are there damaged or spent blossoms? Are leaf tips damaged? **Cultural Perfection** scoring: Does the plant appear hungry, having yellow leaves or too much space between internodes making it too weak or gangly?

There's a huge diversity in gesneriads. I'm pleased to see in many shows that judges are not focused on the gesneriad with the most blossoms. They are rewarding the plant which has reached the highest perfection for its type.

For Beginners



Cathy & Al Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

We are very excited about alternating this column with Joyce and Kent Stork. Since we love miniatures and semiminiatures, we decided to do our first column on them. If you haven't grown these precious little violets yet, please give them a try.

MINIATURES AND SEMIMINIATURES

Miniature and semiminature African violets are becoming more and more popular. One of the main reasons for their increase in popularity is due to the efforts of hybridizers throughout the world. Many of the new hybrids are show-quality plants with beautiful, symmetrical foliage, and gorgeous blooms. Most of them have more blooms per stalk than many of the older varieties. Some other reasons why growers like these small plants are because they take up less shelf space, reach maturity faster, and are easier to transport to a show.

WHERE TO FIND MINIATURES AND SEMIMINIATURES

Many growers like to trade their extra plants and/or leaves with fellow African violet lovers. By trading, they acquire more plants, save money, and enjoy sharing their plants with others. Most of our friends get the majority of their plants from commercial growers and African violet affiliates. The African Violet Magazine (AVM) is an excellent source of information regarding where to purchase African violets!

AVSA's COMMERCIAL MEMBERS:

All commercial members, along with their addresses, are listed once per year in the September/October AVM. The AVM also runs ads from commercial growers in the back of every issue. Since some commercials advertise specials, which are only available for a limited time, please read the ads after you receive your magazine.

AVSA's AFFILIATES:

All affiliates, along with the president's name and address, are listed once per year in the September/October AVM. Most violet clubs have sales where you can purchase plants. Some have raffles at their meetings so you can win plants and/or leaves. Each issue of the AVM has a "Coming Events" feature, which lists the upcoming shows, displays, and sales. Besides seeing all of the gorgeous plants, you can usually find plants for sale at all of these events.

VINTAGE VIOLETS:

If you are looking for a specific older variety, contact Barbara Elkin. As the Chairman of the Vintage Violets Committee, she can help you to locate it.

SO MANY MINIATURES AND SEMIMINIATURES FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE!

Some growers choose violets based on bloom color, foliage, or name. Others want only show-quality plants. Regardless of what you are looking for, you can avoid problems later by choosing healthy violets.

If you want show-quality violets, a good way to start is to go to African violet shows in your area. This will enable you to see which violets grow well in your climate. The AVM is also a good source to find out which violets are winning awards. "Tally Time", by Anna Jean Landgren, is published once per year. It lists the plants that won most often during the year. "And the Winners Are..." by Mary Corondan, is published in each issue. It lists the major winners from recent AVSA judged shows.

If you want to grow violets that are popular, read AVSA's Honor Roll of African Violets, by Floyd Lawson. It is compiled from lists of favorite violets that AVSA members mailed to him.

It really doesn't matter if you choose your violets by

bloom color, foliage, name, statistics, or popularity. All that matters is that you enjoy your plants!

ISOLATING NEW PLANTS

Isolate all new plants and plants returning from a show as far away as possible from your healthy plants. It doesn't matter who you got your new plants from — they should be isolated!

During this isolation period of at least several months, repot all plants and examine their roots. If you are not familiar with nematodes, and other pests and diseases, buy a copy of AVSA's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges and read that section of the book. This is a wonderful book that everyone should own.

FINDING THE CORRECT INFORMATION ON AFRICAN VIOLETS

Try to find all of your violets in AVSA's African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars, compiled by Lynn Lombard. If a plant is not listed there, try to find it in a commercial grower's catalog; the AVM's Registration Report column by Iris Keating, or the yearly Master List in the November/December AVM. These sources will help you to find the correct information on each plant that you own, such as its full name, hybridizer, registration number, type of bloom and foliage, and its size.

Some growers keep an index card on each plant, noting any important information on that particular plant. Others keep this information in a notebook or in a computer file. Even if you don't plan on entering your plants in a show, it helps to know the correct name of each plant so you can look up its size and grow it accordingly.

HOW TO GROW MINIATURES AND SEMIMINIATURES

The AVM is an excellent source of information on how to grow violets! The columns and articles provide a tremendous amount of information in each issue. AVSA also has many books about violets, including the AVSA Handbook, to help us become better growers. Besides learning about violets by reading, many growers are members of one or more AVSA affiliates. By joining a club, you can make many new friends while learning how to grow violets.

What works for one grower doesn't always work for another. Growing violets is a little like cooking. If you ask five people for their favorite chocolate cake recipe, you might get five similar recipes or five totally different ones. Each cook, or grower, feels that their recipe is the best one. As in cooking, if you are happy with your own recipe, keep using it. If you are not happy with your recipe, try someone else's. Whenever you try something

new, remember to experiment on only a few violets.

We use the same violet mix for our miniatures and semiminiatures that we use for all our other violets. Our mix consists of 1/3rd of the following African violet soils: Supersoil, Volkmanns, and Uni-Gro, plus a little extra perlite and vermiculite. Cathy has done a lot of experimenting in the past, and continues to experiment with different soils on a few of her plants at a time. Although we like this mix the best right now, there are many mixes that work well for other growers.

Since miniatures and semiminiatures are grown in smaller pots than standards, their soil tends to dry out faster. Consistency in watering is more important than the watering method you choose, so establish a watering schedule that works for you and stick to it! For example, Al needs to water his plants twice per week, while Cathy needs to water her plants three times per week.

Violets can be grown under natural or artificial light. Ours are grown under fluorescent lights, with two cool white bulbs in each fixture. The stands are on timers. Al's lights are on about 10 hours a day. Since Cathy gets more reflected light from her stands, her lights only need to be on about 8 hours a day. Before a show, we gradually increase our lights to about 11 hours a day.

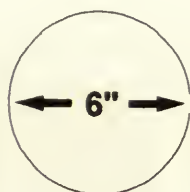
There are many things that work well for us. We use leaf supports, especially on potential show plants. Fans are on year-round to prevent powdery mildew. Humidity is kept between 55%-60% for healthier plants and long-lasting blooms. Violets are leached at least once a month to flush out fertilizer salts. As precautions, soil, perlite, and vermiculite are baked and new and used pots are washed before we use them. Drops are added to our tap water to remove the chlorine. Cathy doesn't use room temperature water on her violets; it is too cold. We alternate fertilizers, using several different brands, most of the year. We use only bloom booster fertilizers for several weeks before a show.

MEASURING THEM FOR SHOW

In an AVSA judged show, miniatures must be single-crown plants that are 6 inches or less in diameter. Semiminiatures must be single-crown plants that are 8 inches or less in diameter. According to AVSA rules, if a miniature or semiminature is larger than the size limitations, the judges should not judge it.

If you plan to enter these plants in a show, measuring them on a routine basis is necessary. One of the easiest ways to measure miniatures is to use a 6-inch (inside diameter, if possible) embroidery hoop (see below). Set the hoop down on a table, then place each miniature in the middle of the hoop. Looking from above the plant, no leaves should touch or extend past the hoop since a miniature must be 6 inches or less in diameter. Blooms

can extend past the hoop, but not leaves. Repeat the process on semiminatures, using an 8-inch embroidery hoop.



6-inch embroidery hoop for miniatures



none of the miniature's leaves should touch the 6-inch embroidery hoop

If you are growing these precious little plants for your own pleasure, and not for show, it is not as critical that they stay within these size limitations. But, they look so much better when they are kept the correct size.

ROUTINE GROOMING FOR SHOW-QUALITY PLANTS

Quite often, you can turn a blue ribbon plant into a Best in Class by giving it a little more attention. When you spend more time on your plants you can fix problems, like necks and dry soil, before they get worse. After Cathy started spending more time on her violets, they improved tremendously. She listened to the "Young and the Restless" while working on her violets for an hour each day. We doubt that the violets benefited by listening to a soap opera, but the extra attention certainly showed.

Your violets will look better after you remove their dead leaves and spent blossoms and give them a bath once in a while. If you rotate your plants 90 degrees each week, you can stop them from becoming lopsided as they reach for the light. Use plastic sticks, or coffee stirrers, to gently move their leaves to improve the symmetry. Besides scoring higher at a show, you will enjoy your violets so much more when they look better!

LAST MINUTE GROOMING FOR SHOW

Since miniatures and semiminatures must be within their size limitations, remove leaves as needed. Plants should be centered in their pots with no neck showing. All suckers and stubs should be removed. Using a soft brush, brush dust, soil, and/or pet hairs off the leaves. If there are enough blooms, remove the spent ones.

HOW MINIATURES AND SEMIMINIATURES ARE JUDGED

Symmetry is the shape of the plant. The leaves should form a rosette with the foliage evenly distributed over the entire plant. Points are deducted for gaps or spaces between the leaves, breaks in symmetry, or uneven dis-

tribution of foliage.

Condition applies to the cultural aspect and grooming of the plant at the time it is judged. Cultural perfection is controlled by the exhibitor. Points are deducted for marred, broken, dead, yellow orb leached leaves, spent blooms, stubs, suckers not completely removed, smaller leaves under the outer row, dust, soil, seed pods, over or under potting, long neck, and a plant that is not centered in its pot.

Quantity of bloom is the total number of open, fresh blooms on the plant. The number of blooms varies depending on the variety. A guide might be 6 to 12 blooms for a miniature and 10 to 20 for a semiminature. But, many of the new varieties have 30 to 40 blooms per plant. Points are deducted for lack of bloom, according to ratio.

Size and type of bloom are determined to a large extent by the variety. Points are deducted for lack of size according to variety and if the type of bloom is not constant or true to variety.

Color of blooms may be influenced by cultural conditions. Points are deducted for the wrong hue or value, solid color blooms instead of multicolor blooms, and if the bloom color is completely different.

If you have any questions or suggestions for us, you can e-mail us at acornibe@rmclonestar.com or write us. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a reply.



AVSA'S SCALE OF POINTS FOR MINIATURES & SEMIMINIATURES:

Symmetry (leaf pattern)	25 points
Condition (cultural perfection)	25 points
Quantity of blooms	25 points
Size and type of bloom	15 points
Color of blooms	10 points

NOTE:

Source for some of the information: AVSA's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges.

"And the winners are..."



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar Falls, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Elizabeth, Swiftly Thriller, Tiger; Best in Show/Best Standard: Elizabeth, **Nancy Price**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia confusa*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; *Saintpaulia intermedia*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Hippy Hop, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Pershing**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Penny Ante, Rob's Magnetic Field, Knight Magic; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Joker', **Catherine Thompson**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard**.

Cincinnati AVS, Cincinnati, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Mystery, Snow Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, **Helen Chambers**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Scooter, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bosca; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Miniature: Little Redhead; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Romeo'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Holtzman**. Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**.

Gateway AVC, Columbia, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: L'Ambassadeur, Optimara Harlequin, Ultra Violet Halo; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Sonata, Rob's Perfect Peach, Wee Hummer; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Petite Tart; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Bud's Cassie, **Ardath Miller**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Dunlap**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Maarsen's Flame', **Marcia Jacobs**.

Volunteer State AV Council, Memphis, TN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Rome, Optimara Crater Lake, Scenario; Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **Lorraine Johnson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Snow Squall, Green Ice; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Party Lace, Irish Flirt, Boo Man; Best Semiminiature: Boo Man; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Adamson**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Stellar Clouds; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best Gesneriad: *Achimenes* 'Desiree', **Marion Zoller**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT 50.00
Desert Sun AVS, Phoenix, AZ 131.00
In memory of Pat Isbell
Office Violets and Lunch, Houston, TX . . . 25.00
Jefferson AV Association, Metairie, LA . . . 25.00
Joshua McKinney, Goshen, KY. 7.00
Enid Wood, Menlo Park, CA 10.00
Margaret Condit, Locust Grove, OK 12.00
Millissa Culver, Longmont, CO 2.00
Spring Branch AV Club, Houston, TX 10.00

Gulf AV Club, Cape Coral/Ft. Myers, FL. . . 10.00
In memory of Rene Menard
Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS 20.00
In memory of Glenna Sheffield
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO. . . . 10.00
Upper Pinellas AVS, Clearwater, FL. 25.00
In memory of Mrs. Mary Johnson
Sheri Smith, Bedford, TX. 3.00
Sherin Boyd, Saint John, Canada 10.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Wilmore, KY 10.00

Luwan Murphy, Hortonville, WI. 2.00
Kathryn Gasser, Riverton, IL 10.00
Ted Nelson, Phoenix, AZ. 2.00
Thelma Heinrich, Cave Creek, AZ. 5.00
Janet Benson, Baltimore, MD 10.00
Fay Thomas, Cooroy, Australia 5.00
Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD. 5.00
Thad Trudell, Dallas, TX 2.00
Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL 25.00
In memory of George Heras

Thinking Small



Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

The North wind doth blow! Hope everyone is keeping warm this winter, and that your violets are rewarding you with dozens of day-brightening blooms! It's time for commercial catalogs to begin being distributed, so watch for them and begin making your "wish" list! Also, please consider attending the Houston convention which should be truly outstanding in all respects.

This month's column is a brief refresher on how to grow the small ones from bottom to top, but first here's the quote of the month from Amy Trept who hails from Texas:

"I know the little ones do look REALLY little at first, but they're not any more fragile than the standards (in my opinion), in fact, I find them easier to care for. It's a lot harder to over water a mini than it is a standard (and) they don't take as long to repot!! You can get a flowering plant from a mini leaf a lot faster than from a standard and they're just SO cute!!!!!"

GETTING OUR FEET WET!

Beginning with watering systems, small ones show no preference as to wick or mat watering. Matting is a very attractive option as you can water many plants at the same time. An additional benefit is with the plants being so close to the matting, the humidity in the air immediately surrounding them is raised. Remember its biggest drawback: with community watering comes community pests and diseases so be on the alert for these as well. Also, you may have to lower your lights so they are 5-7" above the tops of the plants. Wick watering on individual reservoirs is a great method for giving small ones individualized attention. They can be moved independently of each other on your plant shelf and can receive special attention as far

as fertilizer and other needs are concerned. Whether you wick or mat water, be sure the materials you use are 100% synthetic to prevent rotting. Top watering is acceptable with small ones, but with their very short petioles it can be more challenging than with standards. Be careful to not wash away precious soil and leave water standing in the crown of your plant! Bottom watering is also fine, but you must be very consistent. Leaching becomes more important, too, as fertilizer salt build-up is more likely.

With small ones a fertilizer higher in phosphorous than in either nitrogen or potassium is recommended because development of perfect foliage is not as critical to small ones as standards. A good formulation is one that has a 1:2:1 or 1:3:1 ratio of nitrogen to potassium to phosphorous, as seen in fertilizers such as Volkmann's® 15-30-15 or Peter's® 12-36-14. This steady diet of phosphorous-intensive fertilizer is also attractive because bloom boosting of show plants becomes less critical.

SIZE IS EVERYTHING!

Hybridizers are bound by the following criteria for classifying their plants: miniatures at maturity are to be no larger than 6" in diameter at any given point. Semiminiatures are to be no larger than 8" in diameter at any given point. Hybridizers do their best to classify them within these guidelines, but variances in growing environments sometimes wreak havoc. Growers must take certain steps to ensure the plant remains in size, such as "bonsai-ing" or "miniaturizing" the plants, or merely restricting the amount of roots the plant carries. For this reason, small ones should never be grown in pots larger than 2 1/2". Pots that are 2 1/4" are even more appropriate, and for cer-

tain miniatures and willfully large growing semis, 2" or 2 1/8" pots are necessary. The best advice I can give you is to start out in a small pot, say 2" or 2 1/8", and if your small one stays disciplined, move it up to a slightly larger pot, but never exceeding 2 1/2". Thin plastic solo cups are also very good for small ones, so don't be afraid to economize and use them!

Repotting is critical with small ones. Because so little soil is used, keeping it fresh by repotting every three months or so is ideal. If you can't repot that often, leach through with clear, warm water at least that often. When you repot, try removing at least one row of leaves. Remember, violets produce their leaves in groups of three, so obtaining good symmetry will usually require removal of three leaves in a triangle pattern. Once you have removed the outer leaves, scrape the neck to remove any petiole stubs which are prime areas for sucker growth if not removed. Then, remove the same amount of soil off the bottom of the root ball as you have neck. (If your neck is 1/4" then remove 1/4" of the root ball, etc.) Fill in around the neck with fresh soil, being careful not to damage the remaining leaves. A small, pointed teaspoon is good for use with the small ones, as is a baby spoon. One reader, Pat Soares of California, even recommended taking your plants out from under lights for a few days before repotting. This causes their petioles to move slightly upward (the dreaded "V" shape) allowing the new soil to be filled in easier. Using a Vitamin B plant growth stimulant, such as Superthrive® or Ortho Up-Start® or a bloom booster fertilizer (phosphorous is also essential to good root growth) can help the plant adjust during this transitional phase.

SOIL-LESS VIOLETS IN A MODERN DAY WORLD

The best soil for our violets begins with a basic mixture of one part peat to one part perlite to one part vermiculite. From this, modifications can be made based on our personal growing environments. If we tend to grow in a more humid environment, more perlite can be added to the mix. If it's more arid and our plants dry out more often, using more peat or vermiculite, and possibly less perlite may be necessary. Furthermore, we can add soil amendments based on our growing preferences: charcoal for added "sweetness" if we can't repot often enough, bone meal or superphosphate for extra doses of phosphorous if we're concerned about extra bloom count, and trace elements if our regular fertilizer or water supply doesn't add enough for our liking.

Great strides have been made in recent years to help us understand the role of fertilizers. Our violet growing ancestors used real garden soil for their houseplants, including their violets. As a result, they could use any type of fertilizer because garden soil contains microbes that break

down fertilizers appropriately. Recently we became more knowledgeable as to our violet's soil preferences: loose, porous, and lightweight. Garden soil is out and soilless mixes are in. Our violet's roots are happier but our fertilizers work far less efficiently.

Today, chemical science is catching up with soil science, and we're beginning to make adjustments regarding fertilizers. We're beginning to understand the devastating effects a fertilizer high in urea can have on plants grown in soil-less mixes. Consequently, be sure you use a fertilizer that is as low in urea (a form of nitrogen) as possible. (Most fertilizers are clearly labeled as to nitrogen content.) Alternatively, soil microbes that break down nitrogen properly or pasteurized, true garden soil can be added to your mix.

THE PLANTS, THE PLANTS!

Thanks to the hybridizing efforts of Ralph Robinson, Sidney Sorano, Hortense Pittman, Don Ness, and Harold Hobbs, just to name a few, the variety in small ones is every bit as good as it is in standards. We have available to us all sorts of variegates: Tommie Lou, Lilian Jarrett, and crown variegation, and a wide variety of bloom types: wasps, fantasies, chimeras, yellows and reds. Heavy suckering, legginess, and low bloom count that typified early small ones have all but been eliminated. Because of these individuals, as well as the early efforts of Lyndon Lyon, Ethel Champion and the Tinaris, small ones have come to the point where they're on par with the standards as far as variety and desirability. Today, apartment dwellers and those with limited space can delight in the wide spectrum of small ones available.

SHEDDING A LITTLE LIGHT

Small ones prosper when grown closer to the lights than standards. A good distance to start out with is 7". If your small ones grow gappy (the petioles are long and the leaves don't overlap well) and bloom is sparse, then try moving them closer, maybe 5" or so. Another option is to increase the amount of time the lights are on, say from 10 hours to 11 or even 12. They like the same type of lights as standards (cool white, Gro-Lux®, Verilux®, etc.), and because they seem to like more light than standards, they are better candidates for window exposures that receive more intense light.

NEXT TIME

We have another guest columnist next issue: Fay Wagman of New York state. Last year Fay traveled across the country to enter dozens of small ones in the commercial section of the Sacramento convention show. She won many awards for her delightfully small plants, and in March she'll tell us exactly how she did it! See you then!

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Francine Pilon - Saint-Léonard, Québec, Canada

***Gazou** (8747) 8/10/98 (F. Pilon) Semidouble-double cream/light pink and beige-tipped upper petals; thin white, variable green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard trailer**

***Läini** (8748) 8/10/98 (F. Pilon) Double pink large/white-marked lower petals. **Variegated** medium green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard trailer**

***Louiman Sequo** (8749) 8/10/98 (F. Pilon) Semidouble-double blue-purple ruffled. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

***Ti-Mine** (8750) 8/10/98 (F. Pilon) Single pink star. **Variegated** black-green, white and pink, glossy, serrated. **Standard trailer**

.....

Anne Jantzen - Campbell, CA

***Number One** (8751) 8/14/98 (A. Jantzen/G. Crouchet) Semidouble violet-blue. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**

.....

George McDonald - Valatie, NY

***Mac's Halcyon's Horizon** (8752) 8/31/98 (G. McDonald) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***Mac's Overly Ostentatious** (8753) 8/31/98 (G. McDonald) Double white/pink and blue fantasy.

Variegated green and white, plain. **Miniature**

***Mac's Virtually Velvet** (8754) 8/31/98 (G. McDonald) Semidouble coral red/blue overlay. **Variegated** green, pink and white, ovate, serrated. **Semiminiature**

.....

Patt Harris - Santa Clara, CA

***The Madam** (8755) 9/30/98 (P. Harris) Single-semidouble pale pink bell/raspberry-rose tips. Medium-dark green, quilted. **Standard trailer**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Daphne Snell - Pukekohe, New Zealand

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Kiwi) * Aristocrat * Delight * Dream Dancer * Glow Baby * Heartbeat * Magic * Mischief * Splendour * Starbright * Starburst * Velvet Glow

Hortense Pittman - Celina, TX

* Alamo Gold Fever * Alamo Gold Rush * Cajun Trail * Cool Blue * Dancing Eyes * Discovery Trail * Foster Trail * Gleeful Elf * Honey Berry * Ken * My Smokey Trail * Peppy Blue * Petite Ruby * Planet Kid * Skyward Trail * Spindletop * Summer Wind Trail * Sun-up Trail * Teen Thunder * Texas Space Dust * Wishful Teen

Francine Pilon - Saint-Léonard, Québec, Canada

* Fatima Fonseca * Ma Mimie

Patt Harris - Santa Clara, CA

* Sweet Sam * Trail of Tears

CONVENTION UPDATE



2nd ANNUAL AVSA CONVENTION AUCTION: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Donations for the 2nd annual AVSA convention auction to be held at the Saturday luncheon auction are still being sought. We will be accepting nice violet related crafts, supplies, and related items, unusual, rare, unique and newly introduced plant material of all types, and anything else of a unique and desirable nature that you or your affiliate may wish to donate.

Proceeds for the auction will go to a new program designed to assist affiliates with publicizing their shows and sales. These materials will help foster membership growth among the affiliates, further contacts between the affiliate and their local community, and help boost attendance at shows and sales.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me as soon as possible. Provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and let me know if you'll be sending the item to Dale Martens ahead of convention or if you will bring the item with you to convention. (Dale's address is listed at the bottom of this notice.) All donees will

be recognized in the AVM and will be listed in a special notice to be included in all convention registration packets.

Please remember, **you must attend the luncheon banquet in order to participate in the auction.** This allows you to: 1) get a great seat for the auction, 2) have an enjoyable meal with your violet friends and acquaintances, and 3) get a last minute opportunity to view the auction items.

Please join us at the banquet and please, consider donating an item to help AVSA and its affiliates! Thank you!

Send notice of intent to donate to:

Pat Richards • 15105 S. Seminole Drive

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

1-913-829-4258

fax: 1-913-829-485 • email: Patter257@aol.com

Please send items to:

Dale Martens • 2728 Masters Drive

League City, TX 77573 • email: martens@wt.net



WESTERN NIGHT

The Friday night banquet will offer a true taste of Texas hospitality. How is your Texas Two Step? Do you know the lyrics to "The Yellow Rose of Texas?" Are you ready for some fun filled hand clapping and toe tapping?

Let's return to Houston before the turn of the century...the small frontier town, where it was not unusual to see wranglers driving cattle down muddy South Main Street.

Dust off your Stetson and sun bonnet. Grow those mutton chops or mustaches. Polish your boots. Pack your jeans and broom skirts.

This is your chance to transform yourself into your favorite western character, historical or modern.

There are some house rules, though. The management requests that you stable your horse before entering the premises. Check your six shooters at the door - county ordinance here in 1889. Otherwise, suffer the consequences - a confrontation with the local sheriff!

Enjoy the entertainment, company and the "vittles"!



What to Pack for Houston

Expect warm, shirt sleeve weather for April. Hot days may occur as well. Light, layer-up clothing should serve your needs well. Packing an umbrella and light jacket are recommended for those unexpected spring showers.

Comfortable walking shoes are a must for those of you who are going to take the convention tours or explore Houston on your own. Don't forget to pack your Western clothes for the Friday night banquet!

Spreading the Cheer

by Amy L. Cash • Montgomery, IL

About a year and a half ago, I received my first African violets as a gift from my very young grandmother, Mrs. Dixie Williams. I had several houseplants already and did quite well with them, but the one store-bought violet I had tried to grow died a slow and painful death. I just knew I would kill these four lovely plants. In all honesty, I was afraid, and worried that my grandmother would be terribly disappointed in my abilities and that I would once again have to deal with the inevitability of a dead plant.

She had chosen the plants especially for me; they were all "Rob's" hybrids: Antique Rose, Bunny Wabbit, Fiddle Faddle, and Perfect Peach. She thought it most appropriate since my boyfriend's name was Rob. So, with my head full of growing tips, I hesitantly took the plants with a smile and vowed to do my best.

I put them in a choice window spot in my tiny apartment, checked them lovingly every day, watered regularly, talked,

picked and groomed. After about two months, they were not only still alive, but a couple of them were developing buds! Imagine my surprise. They were actually thriving, and within a very short time,

they had gorgeous masses of perfect blossoms. My grandmother was thrilled with my success; she gave me cata-

logs, brochures, and more advice. I soon wanted to try my hand at some of the other heart-stopping varieties. She and my mother gave me plants and leaves, which also did well.

Soon my other house plants were finding new homes to allow more time and space for the violets. One tiny shelf became three, and then a table "grew" a fluorescent light fixture. I was running out of room.

After a move into a lovely ranch home with *awful* plant windows, and with my dog grooming business eating away at my precious time, my plants began to suffer. The lighting was all wrong, the temperature seemed to

fluctuate, and the humidity...it didn't exist. Not only that, but my plants were in all rooms of the house, so sometimes they got neglected.

Something had to be done, so I started the painful process of down-sizing. I took plants to work, sold some to customers and gave them to my employees. At least 3 of those people are slowly becoming addicts, too! But the reality of my situation was clear. I still had to do something for the many remaining plants. I couldn't even keep track of them anymore.

I enlisted Rob to gather the necessary supplies to build a plant stand. I made up the plans, doled out about \$60, and within 3 weeks, the stand was built and loaded with plants! I labeled every one and set up a file box and a new inventory list.

In the meantime, my grandmother decided to organize an African violet club. By September, we had our first meeting. What an inspiration! If you can find a club in your area, certainly join. If you already belong to one, then you can probably imagine my awe at that first meeting. Plants were everywhere. My grandmother had tons of blooming 'Irish Flirts' for everyone to take, and our V.P., Andrea Worrell, brought tiny trailers to share. Baggies filled with leaves sat heaped on the table, fun computer printouts were made by our Secretary, Charles Newton, and fertilizer packets were donated by Jan and Joe Bruns. My deepest admiration is extended to those of you who have braved such an undertaking!

So now, my plants are thriving once again. My original "Rob's" are still intact and blooming. They all smile in the light, suck up the moisture of our new humidifier, and sing about all the great new info I've received thanks to our new club, the Fox Valley AVS.

Thanks, Grandma! And by the way, Rob and I are now engaged, planning an August, 1999 wedding and expect to have centerpieces made from...what else? African violets!





AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the formation and guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 1998 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund. The first award will be for the fall of 1999.

Applications may be downloaded from AVSA's web site, avsa.org, or may be ordered from the AVSA Office - AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

All completed applications should be mailed to:

Dr. Charles Ramser
2413 Martin Street
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

POWDERY MILDEW

One of the main problems facing African violet growers at this time of year is powdery mildew.

This shows as a fine white powder appearing on the leaves and/or flowers. It is particularly prevalent when we have a period of warm days and much cooler nights, which seems to produce the exact conditions for its growth, although it can easily happen at other times of the year too. Left to itself, mildew can ruin flowers and cause large rotted areas to appear in leaves. Never leave it completely untreated.

The most satisfactory way to eliminate mildew used to be to spray with several fungicides that are no longer available, or which must be purchased in large quantities which rules out most of our members growing just a few violets. So a problem has developed to know just what to use.

Here are a few tips on mildew control.

1. Improve air circulation around your plants. If you have plants too close together or touching a wall you may find that mildew develops. If you have many plants in a small area try running a small fan to circulate air.

2. If you have just a few violets, or just a few which are affected with mildew, you will find you can take them to the tap and just wash the mildew away with warm water. Dry the plants off well.
3. Old time growers used to place saucers of sulphur powder on the shelves around the plants. Scientific opinion is that this of no use at all, but also does no harm. So it is up to you whether you try it.
4. Sulphur is, however, a good fungicide and can be used by dipping a brush in the sulphur powder and brushing it over the mildewed leaves of the violet. Continue brushing until all signs of both mildew and sulphur have gone.
5. Regular misting with warm water during the warmer part of the day is felt by some growers to reduce the incidence of mildew.

Reprinted with permission from *The African Violet*, publication of the African Violet Association of Australia, Inc.

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Recently, I visited an old friend in a rest home. She seemed quite content with the current status of her life. I've always been skeptical of the elderly in rest homes. After asking many questions and observing the care being given, I could very well change my opinion of rest homes.

Old Folks and Old Violets have a lot in common. They require a lot of attention, a lot of patience and a lot of love. If the residents of a rest home were in a beauty contest, allowances would have to be made, the same goes for Vintage Violets in a show. Next time, you judge an Old Timer, remember to make allowances for their age. Nothing, except wine, gets better with age. In other words, "Respect your elders".

Hopefully you have noticed that in AVSA Convention

Shows, a special class has been added for Vintage Violets. My own two affiliates have added a class for them also. It is my sincere hope that you will also add a class in your schedule for your senior citizens. In ASVA Convention Shows, your old timer must be at least 25 years old. In our local shows we ask that the age be 15 years or older. This can be as the individual club chooses, but please, make it at least ten years old. Being in their own class, our senior citizens will get the respect they are entitled to.

Remember, always return the postage, whether asked for or not, when someone shares something with you. Always send me a self-addressed and stamped envelope when asking for information or making inquiries.

Something New Is Coming!

by Ron Davidson and
Bill Foster

AVSA is very fortunate to have such a talented and generous member as Joe Bruns of Illinois. Joe, as most of you know, developed First Class, a mechanized version of the Master Variety List. It is so easy to look up plant descriptions on First Class, but it doesn't stop there. A list of your probable entries can be reproduced, as can labels showing hybridizer, variety name and description, and registration number, if registered. These labels are so nice to use as pot labels and especially nice for leaves to be sold at plant sales.

Joe did not quit with First Class. He has developed a new Entries Program and is giving it to AVSA. This program was tested by a number of Affiliates and was a great success. Joe is now making further upgrades to the program from suggestions he received from those who tried it. This program almost allows one person to be in charge of both Entries and Classification at a show, and works in conjunction with First Class. About all that needs to be supplied to the computer is the name of the exhibitor, plant name, and

class number. The program will then assign exhibitor numbers, check classification, produce name tags for the exhibits, and entry and collection sheets. When results of the judging are entered from the entry sheets, this program provides all the information for part 1 of the Standard Show Award Score Sheet, already calculated, for the final panel of judges. This program has been so successful that it will become the official Entries Program used at future AVSA conventions. It has generated so much praise that it will be offered to all Affiliates in a package that will include First Class, for a price of \$25. The package should be available about March 1. A slight modification has been made to the entry cards sold by AVSA to accommodate the new Entries Program. These cards will still serve the needs of Affiliates who choose to continue with manual entries.

Joe will be giving a talk on the new Entries Program at our 1999 convention in Houston, TX, so be sure to attend and learn about the many ways this new program can help your club.

Coming Events



January 8 - 10 - MISSOURI

9th Annual St. Louis Flower Show
America's Center
701 Convention Plaza, St Louis, MO
Info: (314) 997-3631

February 6 - 7 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS 19th Annual AV Show
Lakeland Garden Club Center
802 East Orange St
Lakeland, FL
Feb 6 - noon - 6pm
Feb 7 - noon - 5:30pm
Info: Lynne Locke (914) 688 - 9908

February 12 & 13 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS Plant Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall
I-20 and Airline Dr
Bossier City, LA
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Ruth Hammond (318) 869 - 2653

February 12 - 14 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS 40th Show/Sale
Clearwater Mall
20505 US Hwy 19 North
Clearwater, FL
Mall Hours

February 13 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Judged Show/Annual Sale
Christown Mall
19th Ave & Bethany Home Rd
Phoenix, AZ
Hours: 10am - 5pm, Seminar - 11am
Info: Louise Kling (602) 972 - 6895

February 13 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Plant Sale
Buenaventura Mall
Mills Rd & Main St
Ventura, CA
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

February 13 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Valentine's Day Sale
Padre Staples Mall
SPID & S. Staples St
Corpus Christi, TX
Hours: 10am - 6pm
Info: Marjorie Bullard (512) 992 - 3009

February 17 - 21 - GEORGIA

Southeastern Flower Show
City Hall East Exhibition Center
Atlanta, GA
Info: (404) 364 - 9700

February 24 - 27 - GEORGIA

Dixie AVS 43rd Annual Convention
Hosted by the Georgia State AV Council
Hilton NW Atlanta, GA
Show open to public: Feb 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Kathy Spissman (770) 939 - 5289

February 27 - KANSAS

Wichita AV Study Club Show/Sale
Wichita Botanical Gardens
701 Amidon
Wichita, KS
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Helen Barrett (316) 683 - 2877

February 26 - 28 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS 24th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Westshore Plaza
250 Westshore Plaza
Tampa, FL
Feb 26 - noon - 9pm
Feb 27 - 10am - 9pm
Feb 28 - noon - 6pm
Info: John Menish (813) 681 - 1910

February 27 - March 7 - NORTH CAROLINA

39th Annual Southern Spring Show
Charlotte Merchandise Mart
2500 East Independence Blvd
Charlotte, NC
Info: (800) 849 - 0248

February 27 & 28 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale
Tulsa Garden Center
2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK
Feb 27 - noon - 5pm
Feb 28 - noon - 4pm
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

February 27 & 28 - TEXAS

Moonlight AVS Spring Show/Sale
Ft Worth Botanic Garden Center
University Dr
Ft Worth, TX
Both Days: Judging 9am - 12pm
Show - 1pm - 4pm
Sale: Feb 27 - 1pm
Info: Mural Fort (817) 589 - 1149

February 27 - TEXAS

Fort Worth AVS Sale
Ft Worth Botanic Garden Center
University Dr
Fort Worth, TX
Sale: 1pm

March 5 & 6 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVC Show
Beardall Senior Center
800 S Delaney Ave
Orlando, FL
Mar 5 - noon - 4pm
Mar 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Evelyn Briggs (407) 322 - 1409

March 6 & 7 - ALABAMA

Capital City AVS
Southern Homes & Gardens
Hwy 231 North
Montgomery, AL
March 6 - 2pm - 5pm
March 7 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Barbara Strock (334) 567 - 6811

March 11 - 13 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas
Alpha AVS and First Nighter AVS
Combined Show/Sale
Richardson Square mall
Beltline & Plano Rd
Plano, TX
Sale - All Days - 10am - 9pm
Show - Mar 12 - noon - 9pm
Mar 13 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
Mar 13 - noon - 4:30pm
Mar 14 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC of Spring Hill
6th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank
Rt 50 (Cortez Blvd)
Spring Hill, FL
Mar 13 - 11am - 6pm
Mar 14 - noon - 3pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA

Central CA AVS Display/Sale
Manchester Mall
1901 E Shields Ave
Fresno, CA
Mar 13 - 9am - 3pm
Mar 14 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Stanley Barnes (559) 294 - 8650

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola Annual Show/Sale
Scottish Rite Bldg
2 E. Wright St
Pensacola, FL
Mar 13 - 2pm - 6pm
Mar 14 - noon - 5pm
Info: Sarah Richardson (850) 968 - 1115

April 17 - CANADA

Vancouver AVC Annual Show/Sale
Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
Oak St and 37th Ave
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Hours: 1pm - 4pm
Admission \$2

April 24 & 25 - CANADA

Ottawa AVS Annual Show/Sale
RMO Headquarters
111 Lisgar St
Ottawa, ON, Canada
Apr 24 - 1pm - 5pm
Apr 25 - noon - 4pm
Info: Dick Harriman (613) 747 - 7921

April 24 & 25 - CANADA

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
Sherway Gardens Centre Square
25 The West Mall
Etobicoke, ON, Canada
Apr 24 - 11am - 6pm
Apr 25 - noon - 5pm
Info: Vivian Beeching (905) 279 - 1758
Jim Toms (416) 622 - 5243



Kevin Degner, Wisconsin AV Council, with 'Kev's Meteor Shower,' seedling - not registered - Best in Show. October '98

Members



"Happiness Is" AVS member Betty Margetts with 'Peach Puff'



Metropolitan St. Louis AVC 43rd Show Winner - Marion Hamtil



Metropolitan St. Louis AVC 43rd Show Best Design Winner: Glenda Holm



Bermuda AVS member Amelia Gumbs gives AV seminar to interested Bermuda violet growers



Seven of the nine active Octogenarian members of the Baton Rouge AVS, Gladys Markland, Ruth Jones, Lillian Tassetore, Pauline Halbert, Belle Higgins, Louise Acosta and Emma Rinear.



The Violet Patch of South Florida Winners. Left to Right: Martha Spyridon, Carolee Carter and Leticia Potter



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Let's Go to Convention!

by Linda Golubski
Blue Springs, MO

In 1988 I went to my first AVSA convention in Dallas, TX, with my daughter, Barbie. It was a very humbling experience! I had participated in two local shows and one Council show and had done pretty well. I thought I was on my way to national "greatness". When we arrived at the hotel at the same time as Richard Nicholas, my daughter saw his *2 foot across*, gorgeous plants and said, "Mom, you might as well leave yours in the van!" Richard won Best in Show that year with one of those huge, dazzling plants. I entered my 6 plants and got 6 blue ribbons - I was thrilled. That being my first convention, I did stay at the convention hotel, but didn't participate in any of the other activities. I've always regretted that.

In 1989, the convention was in Kansas City, (my home town) and I was the information chairman. That means I worked, but did enjoy the banquets and luncheons. I met a woman from Virginia, Carol Van, with whom I am still friends, even though we only meet once a year. We share a love of miniature sinningias.

In 1990 I flew to Boston, which is where I was born and reared. Since my family lives 50 miles west of Boston, I commuted each day to spend more time with them. I took my first convention judge's school there. I remember I was so afraid that it would be more difficult than "a regular judge's school". Francis Young was the teacher. What a gracious lady! The school wasn't any different from any other school. So, if you have fear of that, don't worry! This year my Mom and Dad attended the banquets with me. This was their first convention (my Dad's last). They had great memories of David Buttram, Esther and Charles Wells, and Hortense and Sundown Pittman. They were so impressed with how friendly everyone was plus all the beautiful violets.

In 1992 I dragged my husband, Jim, to Columbus for the 100th anniversary of the African violet. Much to his dismay he actually had a good time. Go figure. The first night there, I was so stressed out trying to get my plants and designs entered on time (I had forgotten about the time difference) that I was a nervous wreck! The Ohio people were very patient and gracious and got everything entered.

Jim told me there was something he wanted to show me outside, so I went. There I found a white horse and carriage awaiting. He had arranged a tour of Columbus for us - to calm my nerves, I think. I won my first "best in class" ribbons that year. I framed them!

My parents moved to Missouri in 1990, so this was a perfect opportunity for my mother and I to start going to convention together. We headed to Lancaster, PA in 1993. This was the only time that we didn't stay at the convention hotel. This was a major mistake that to this day my mother has never let me forget. I had made all the reservations for planes, limousines, banquets and tours, but forgot the hotel. When I realized what I had done, the AVSA convention block had been lifted and there wasn't any space left. The hotel suggested we stay at another hotel that was next door and that had a covered walkway between them. The covered walkway was a golf cart path and it rained a lot - you can guess the rest! I remember this convention as being the one with the most food at every meal.

Mom and I packed up the van and headed for Denver in 1994. This rates as one of the top hotels in our book! We went to Mollie Brown's house, Este's Park, shopping and Black Hawk gambling. We did boost Colorado's economy a little. I like Colorado so well that I took my husband and mother-in-law back there in 1995.

1995 was a trip with Jim to St. Louis and "The Arch". Our room had a beautiful view of the Mississippi River which was at flood stage. The Botanical Gardens and St. Charles were outstanding. I was honored by Ann Miller when she asked me to give one of the presentations on Friday. If you are ever asked, say yes! It is a wonderful experience.

The hotel in Atlanta in 1996 was a garden paradise! The "Underground", a shopping mall in an old part of Atlanta, was truly unique. We took a tour to Madison and visited two Southern mansions, a museum and got to shop. (Shopping is a high priority on Mom's list of things to do!)

1997 took us to St. Pete Beach, Florida. What a convention! Bob Green personally promised me perfect weather when I started whining about Florida in June. I

want to say here and now that when Bob makes a promise he keeps it! What a great group of people in the host Council. We took 3 tours. If you've never been on one, you've got to try it. My compliments to Ann Miller and Linda and Jim Owens for the interesting tours they put together. Mom and I would probably go on all of them if we had the time.

If you've seen a pattern forming here, it was intentional. I am an only child and have lived away from home since I was 18 years old. Despite the miles, Mom and I have always been close. Now that she lives in Missouri we find the AVSA conventions to be a perfect time for us to get away together. It's a special time for us to laugh and enjoy what has been prepared for our enjoyment. On the plane home from Florida, we were already speculating about what Sacramento would have to offer.

I know we are not the only mother-daughter duo. We had the distinct pleasure of meeting and going on tour with Nancy and Floretta Willets of Tennessee.

I've only given you brief descriptions of some of the conventions I've attended. I could fill an entire magazine

with all the fun things we do at convention. One looks forward to seeing old violet friends and making new ones. And, all the new introductions and the sales and show rooms - what a feast for violet lovers!

If you've never been to an AVSA convention, be sure to head to Houston for the "Lone Star Violet Roundup". To enjoy the full experience, stay at the convention hotel, try at least one tour of whatever suits your fancy, attend a banquet or luncheon and most of all don't forget to exhibit a plant or design. There is no greater violet thrill for me than to take home an AVSA convention ribbon. Maybe someday I'll be able to grow a plant of the quality grown by Pat Richards, Kathy Lahti, Linda Bjorkman, Gene Loveland, Richard Nicholas or Marie Burns and win Best in Show. I know my family prays it will never happen because they won't be able to live with me.

Convention is a fantastic experience. Mom, Claire D'Allessandro, and I have so much fun we just think everyone should go. I promise that it's like eating potato chips - you can't have just one!

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from August 1 to September 30, 1998

Jefferson African Violet Association, Metairie, LA . . .	\$25.00	African Violet Club of Morris County, Stanhope, NJ. . .	5.00
Lakes Area Violet Growers, Maplewood, MN	25.00	Ms. Janet Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD	10.00
Ms. Enid Wood, Menlo Park, CA	10.00	Ms. Harriet Morgan, Manhattan, MT	5.00
Ms. Millissa Culver, Longmont, CO	2.00	Ms. Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Foster, Mesquite, TX		Louisiana Council of African Violet Judges & Growers,	
<i>In memory of Eva Mae White</i>	25.00	New Roads, LA	25.00
Mr. Jose Torres, Amherst, OH	2.00	Ms. Janet Mischler, Chugiak, AK.	2.00
Ms. Sheri Smith, Bedford, TX	3.00	Ms. Annie Belle Perry, Trenton, NJ	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Welchel, San Antonio, TX		San Marcos African Violet Society, San Marcos, TX . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Major Forrest Leon Fowler</i>	25.00	Derald Richards, Eagle Creed, OR	1.00
North Texas African Violet Judges Council, Coppell, TX		Mr. Stephen Maruszak, Westport, CT	2.00
<i>In memory of Eva Mae White</i>	10.00	Wichita African Violet Study Club, Wichita, KS	15.00
Ms. Sandy Shaughmussy, Wilmore, KY	10.00	Ms. Joan Porter, Fairfax, VA	5.00
Ms. Luwan Murphy, Hortonville, WI	2.00	Spring Branch African Violet Club, Houston, TX. . . .	50.00
Ms. Peggy Stangas, Tenaflly, NJ	5.00	Bergen County African Violet Society,	
Ms. Trudy McNeil, Branford, CT	2.00	Wood Ridge, NJ	25.00
Mr. Ted Nelson, Phoenix, AZ	2.00	The First African Violet Society of Dallas, Dallas, TX	
Unpredictable's African Violet Society,		<i>In memory of Eva Mae White</i>	45.00
Grain Valley, MO.	10.00	Surplus Funds from the 1998 AVSA Convention in	
Ms. Martha Bibbins, Cambridge, MA	18.00	Sacramento	500.00
Ms. Octavio Quero Mendoza,		First Nighter African Violet Society, Dallas, TX	
Guadalajara, Jalesco, Mexico	1.50	<i>In memory of Eunice Pickard</i>	15.00
Ms. Janet Benson, Baltimore, MD	10.00	Total	\$937.50

Optimara Little Crystal

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Miniature



Optimara Harlequin

From Best Holtkamp

Collection (Commercial)

1998 National Show

Exhibited by: Kent Stork

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Standard





Rob's Boogie Woogie

Best Plant from Commercial Display Tables

1998 National Show

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

Ralph Robinson

Rob's Mini-o-lets

Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky

Semiminiature

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512

If you've mailed a question to me by mail, and are still awaiting for a reply, my apologies. I just haven't got enough extra time to deal with correspondence (the same goes for e-mail). If you need an immediate response, telephone calls are always accepted during our normal business hours, since we can always work and talk at the same time. Of course, we can't always promise an answer. If you'd like some basic cultural information, and have access to the internet, check out the "culture pages" on our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. Or check out the AVSA site at www.avsa.org.

QUESTION: *The blooms on a few of my varieties, 'Irish Flirt' and 'Denim Demon' to name two, don't want to open fully. Any reason why?*

ANSWER: This was a phone call that I received from a customer. Since the plants were being grown during the summer months, I asked whether she considered her growing conditions to be very warm—she said they were. This is the most likely explanation for the small flowers. Many kinds of stress, high temperatures (say, above 80F degrees for a prolonged period) in particular, can cause blooms to be small or to not fully open. This can be more of a problem for some varieties, too. Varieties with very double, frilled, or green flowers often have this trait. Though both of the varieties mentioned are among my favorites, they do sometimes bloom this way.

As might be guessed, relatively "cool" temperatures (between 60F and 70F degrees) can have a beneficial effect on violet blossoms. Not only will blooms be larger than normal, but their color will be deeper and, if multi-colored or edged, the contrast will be greater. Though it will take longer for plants to come into full bloom, blossoms will stay fresh much longer. We've had blossoms on plants like 'Irish Flirt' or 'Rob's Sarsaparilla' (blossoms showing some green) stay fresh for two months or more during the cooler winter months.

QUESTION: *I am experiencing a white "gooey" substance around the crown of some of my violets. Could you*



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601

please tell me what this substance might be and how to get rid of it?

ANSWER: The likely answer, I'm sad to say, is that this is likely evidence of a heavy mealy bug infestation. Mealy bug egg masses will often have this appearance. Individually, they can be seen as very small, white, waxy, rice-shaped (but smaller) insects. They will move, but do so very slowly. Sometimes eggs appear as a white dust on the shelf surface surrounding the plant. You likely also have them in the soil—you'll notice white patches, like confectioner's sugar, around the outside of the root ball. They also are often noticed around the base of the plant, on the neck just above the soil surface.

As for how to get rid of them, this is a difficult proposition. From my experience, mealybugs are perhaps the most difficult pest to eliminate. Doing so usually means the use of very expensive and/or toxic chemicals. Two chemicals that we've found to be fairly (but not completely) effective are Enstar and Marathon. The former is a liquid that can be used as a drench or, better yet, used as solution into which the entire plant is submerged. The latter is a granular, sand-like, material that is mixed into the soil and has systemic properties (i.e. the pests ingest it when they feed on the plant). Both, however, are very costly—\$75 to \$100 per 5 oz. bottle and 1 lb. package, respectively. For this reason (not to mention the exposure to toxins), it's usually better to just discard such a heavily infested plant.

Should you still wish to try to save the variety, I would suggest rooting the crown or leaves and starting over. Be sure that the material being rooted is as clean as possible. At the very least, washing with a mild soap (like Ivory) in lukewarm water. Since this plant has a heavy infestation in the crown, taking leaf cuttings would be the wiser choice. Even once these leaves produce plantlets, keep these plants separate from the rest of your collection until you are certain that the mealybugs haven't been passed on. Mealybugs are stubborn creatures!

QUESTION: *Is there any way to keep variegated foliage from getting brown spots along the edge?*

ANSWER: Though beautiful, variegated foliage can present some problems. One of these is the ugly spotting or "bruising" that's referred to here. Usually, the more heavily variegated the leaf, the more susceptible it is to such problems. Just this morning, for example, I moved one heavily variegated plant to a different spot on the same shelf. When I looked at it again, not more than two minutes later, nearly an entire leaf had turned an ugly shade of brown. You only need to breathe on some plants for them to bruise this way.

Fortunately, not all varieties are this sensitive and, with a few precautions, this problem can be minimized. First, avoid over-handling the plants. The less that you touch the foliage, the less likely the chance for bruising. Be especially careful not to handle these plants with cold and/or wet hands. I once handled one after having a pickle as a snack, turning the entire plant brown within a matter of minutes! Second, try not to keep these plants too soggy. When the plant tissues are holding a lot of water, they seem especially prone to bruising. Third, be careful when watering not to get water, particularly cold water, on the foliage. Morning "dew" can be a problem, also. This is the moisture that often appears in the crown, or on the leaf edges, the morning after a cool night. For this reason, it's best not to water in the evening, and to minimize the difference between nighttime and daytime temperatures. Lastly, be careful in using fertilizers and other chemicals, since overuse of these can be toxic to the plant and damage the foliage.

QUESTION: *When is the best time to pot plantlets from leaf cuttings?*

ANSWER: My best answer is to do so as soon as the plantlets are large enough for you to feel comfortable handling them and confident enough that they will survive and continue to grow. Doing this as a business means that we pot plantlets when they are scheduled to be potted, whether they are ready or not. This means that many plantlets are quite small when they are individually potted into 2" pots. This is rarely a problem, though, so long as they are otherwise healthy.

We've noticed that plantlets potted earlier will usually mature more quickly than had we waited longer to pot them up. Put another way, they will grow faster in their own pot than they will when still attached to the mother leaf. Of course, during this extra time attached to the leaf, additional plantlets may have had a chance to sprout—it's a trade-off of time versus quantity. We also place all newly potted plantlets into trays covered with clear plastic domes for a few weeks. This terrarium-like environment provides the very small plantlets a bit of protection until they become better established. It also means that we don't need to worry about watering them during this time.

QUESTION: *Recently, I have experienced a problem with the center growth on some of my violets. On some otherwise healthy plants, the center growth has disappeared. The plant would remain healthy, then eventually sprout suckers from the center.*

ANSWER: Though there might be another explanation, this seems to happen to us most commonly on certain varieties, suggesting that this might be a problem that is inherited. Yellow-blossomed varieties, for example, are notorious for suddenly losing their center growth. This is assuming, of course, that the plant is otherwise healthy and free of pests and disease.

QUESTION: *I am serving as interim principal at an elementary school. The fifth grades study plants as part of their science project. I thought it would be a wonderful idea to involve them in doing some experiments with members of the gesneriad family. We have approximately 22 students per class. The main problem is space. We would probably want to set up light stands.*

I am seeking ideas for the "best" type of gesneriad to use. One that will propagate easily from leaves, be compact, bloom early, have many blooms, be attractive, and not be too fussy about temperature or light, etc. Which member of the family would fit this bill? Any advice?

ANSWER: This is an inquiry we received by e-mail recently. I can't think of a better way of introducing young people to the experience of growing plants. Though most members of the gesneriad family are quite easy to propagate and grow, the African violet is the probably the easiest to propagate by leaf cutting. It takes about 4-5 months to produce new plantlets after rooting leaf cuttings, then another 3-4 months after potting these plantlets for them to reach maturity and to bloom. The performance (difficulty and time) will vary by variety.

Buy one plant per student. Take some leaves for propagation in 2" pots. Keep these leaf cuttings in a transparent container. A standard-size tray (about 11" x 22") with clear dome can hold 44 of these 2" pots. If plant size is a concern, miniature and semiminature varieties would be best, since their size at maturity range between 3" and 8" in diameter. Since there are a number of varieties worth growing, we would suggest growing a number of different varieties, so that your students can compare the differences between them. One 4-foot light stand, suspended one foot above a space of about 2 feet by 4 feet, should provide you with more than enough space to grow a plant or two for each of your students.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.

Showcase

Humungous

Exhibited by: Jim Turner

Hybridized by: D. Harrington

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Standard



Rob's Cherry Soda

Exhibited by: Cathy Cornibe

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Miniature



AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE
"Lone Star African Violet Round-Up"

APRIL, 1999 • HOUSTON, TEXAS

Horticulture Division – Amateur

SECTION I - COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).

3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

4. Dark blue and purple
5. Light to medium blue
6. Light to medium pink
7. Dark pink, rose, and coral
8. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
9. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
10. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
11. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
12. Fantasy
13. All edged

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE

BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

14. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
15. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
16. White, cream, and blush
17. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera
18. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

19. Purple and all shades of blue
20. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
21. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
22. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged
23. Fantasy
24. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
25. Pink, coral, red, fuchsia, variegated foliage
26. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
27. Two-tone, multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
28. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS,

ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

29. Purple and all shades of blue
30. Pink and coral
31. Red and fuchsia

32. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush

33. All edged

34. Two-tone, multicolor, and chimera

35. Fantasy

36. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage

37. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage

38. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage

39. Two-tone multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage

40. All edged, variegated foliage

41. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE
VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE**

42. Standard trailers

43. Miniature trailers

44. Semiminature trailers

45. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids

46. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

47. Seedlings

48. Sports or mutants

**SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN
UNUSUAL CONTAINER**

49. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container

50. One African violet trailer in container

**SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

51. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)

52. Tuberous-rooted

53. Scaly-rhizomed

54. Fibrous-rooted

55. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh cut African violet blossoms or foliage. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backboards and draping of niches are permitted unless restricted by the particular class.

56. **"Welcome to Houston"** - Houston, Texas is the fourth largest city in America and the second largest port city which draws international trade from around the world. Help us see our fair city through a newcomer's eyes. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

57. **"The Butterfly Museum"** - The Houston Museum of Natural Science is home to a popular exhibit called the Butterfly Museum. This is an arboretum of tropical and butterfly-friendly plants where cocoons open to reveal beautiful butterflies and moths. They are displayed in a natural environment for the enjoyment of adults and children alike. Give us your interpretation of a visit to this fun exhibit. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

58. **"Our Texas Hybridizers"** - Texas is proud to claim many African violet hybridizers as our own. J. C. and Lenora Munk call Houston home, and Texans, Hortense Pittman, Dottie Wilson, Bill Foster, Linda Ray, June Swift and others from across the state have contributed beautiful specimens to our lives over the years. Use blossoms from any Texas-hybridized violet specimen in your tribute to these talented people, indicating the hybridizer's name on your card. To be displayed in a niche 20" H x 16" W x 12" D. Limited to eight entries.

59. **"Texas Heritage"** - One can't talk about Texas without acknowledging its role in settling our great country. One is reminded constantly of settlers in covered wagons, huge cattle drives, rolling plains, expansion of the railroads, herds of buffalo and, of course, the cowboy and his horse around a campfire. Give us your interpretation of this time in Texas history. To be staged in a niche 20" H x 16" W x 12" D. Limited to eight entries.

60. **"Galveston Bay"** - From the time of man's first discovery of our land, Galveston Island and the Bay area have been pivotal in the settlement of this area. From ancient shipwrecks and pirates, to migrating bird sanctuaries, hurricanes and today's sun worshippers/beach combers, Galveston has a rich history. Show us your impression of Galveston Bay in an underwater arrangement not to exceed 18" H x 12" W x 12" D. To be displayed on a shelf at eye level in front of a pale blue background; no backboards or draping permitted. Limited to ten entries.

61. **"To The Stars and Beyond"** - Space Center Houston is where NASA trains our astronauts and monitors space flights to the far corners of our galaxy. Depict your impressions of exciting space flight with a mobile arrangement. To be displayed in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. Dowel rods will be provided if needed. Limited to six entries.

62. **"Spindletop"** - Beaumont, home of the AVSA office, is also the location of the first big oil strike in Texas - Spindletop. Give us your depiction of this event in a mirror image design staged on an open table in front of a white background. Accessories and bases are permitted but no backdrops are allowed. The two arrangements will be shown one in front of the other with an 8" x 10" white standing picture frame between them to depict a "mirror" image. The frame will be provided. Five inches will be allowed both in front and behind the frame for the arrangements and a quarter-inch black mat will outline the inside of the picture frame. Limited to six entries.

63. **"Rodeo Clown"** - The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is one of the most well-known events in our city. One of the most colorful and dangerous jobs at a rodeo is that of the clown. When the riders are bucked off during the various events, rodeo clowns distract the animals to protect the cowboys. Express your view in a small arrangement not exceeding 8" in height. The designs will be staged in white lighted picture frame niches with inside dimensions of 10" H x 8" W x 5" D. Limited to ten entries.

64. **"Mexican Fiesta"** - Texas has embraced many cultural attributes from Mexico, its neighbor to the south, over many generations. Some of the happiest events in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and many other cities are the colorful fiestas. Help us enjoy a fiesta with an arrangement staged in a white lighted niche with inside dimensions of 12" H x 10" W x 5" D. Limited to ten entries.

SECTION XI. - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, with the rootball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted, unless restricted by the particular class.

65. **"The Arts Scene"** - Houston is known for its vigorous participation in the arts with world-class organizations such as the Houston Ballet, the Symphony Orchestra and the Houston Opera. We also have many local theatre groups that perform at the Wortham Center and around town, as well as hosting traveling theatre and musical productions. Show us your interpretation of a night on the town attending your favorite event. To be staged in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

66. **"Presidential Ties"** - Texas is privileged to have two presidential libraries located in our state: the Lyndon B. Johnson Library near Austin and the George Bush Library near College Station and Texas A&M University. Present a design of your choice using a presidential theme of red, white and blue colors. To be staged in a niche 28" H x 21" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

67. **"A Literary Great"** - Houston is proud to be the home of our former First Lady Barbara Bush who has long supported literacy programs. Not long ago America lost one of its premier authors, James Michener, who wrote of many places around the world from "Alaska" to "Texas" to the "Caribbean" and beyond and spent his last years in the Austin area. In honor of both of these fine people, create a design with a theme based on any one of James Michener's books and list that title on your card. To be staged in a niche 20" H x 16" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

68. **"The George Ranch"** - A visit to Houston would not be complete without a visit to a real working ranch and we have one called the George Ranch just south of the city. Groups can visit the ranch and experience the cowboy activities, ranch life, see the animals, and the best part, enjoy great food and fun entertainment. Show us your interpretation of the western lifestyle. To be staged in a niche 20" H x 16" W x 15" D. Limited to six entries.

69. **"A Visit to the Orient"** - As an international city, Houston is home to many cultures including a thriving Asian community. There are many fine restaurants and attractions and even a large scale replica of China's Forbidden Gardens located west of the city. Create a design of your choice using an oriental theme. To be staged on an open white table and not to exceed 14" H x 12" W x 8" D. Limited to eight entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. No cut plant materials, arti-

ficial plant materials, live creatures, American or national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. Number of entries are unlimited but only one entry per class by exhibitor is permitted.

70. **"Spring Round-Up"** - Natural Garden: A planting in a container formed from natural material such as driftwood or rock which may have multiple planting areas. No ceramic or pottery containers are permitted. The designs should not exceed 24" in any direction. Help us imagine the rough terrain of the plains and canyons where the cattle hide from the wranglers.

71. **"Rustler's Roost"** - Terrarium: A planting in a covered, transparent container not to exceed 20" in any direction. Suggest a vision of a rustler's hideaway.

72. **"Bayou Bend Gardens"** - Terrarium: A planting in a covered, transparent container not to exceed 30" in any direction. Show us your interpretation of this beautifully restored estate's 14 acres of gardens and fountains.

73. **"Making Camp Along the Brazos"** - Dish Garden: A planting in a shallow, dish-like container which shall not have a cover. From the Rio Grande north to the Red River, water was critical to the survival of cowboys and animals alike. Remind us of a river scene in your design. Not to exceed 20" in any direction.

74. **"Missions Along the Trail"** - Dish Garden: A planting in a shallow, dish-like container which shall not have a cover. Spanish missions were a fixture in the southwest providing food, religion and a sense of community as settlers tried to establish roots in this area. Show us your view of this historical time. Not to exceed 12" in any direction.

75. **"Hermann Park"** - Bottle Garden: A planting in a transparent container with an opening that is too small for a hand to enter. Not to exceed 36" in any direction. Opening need not be covered. Remind us of this beautiful park in the center of Houston.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

SECTION XIII – EDUCATION EXHIBIT

76. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

SECTION XIV – SPECIMEN PLANTS

A. Collections

- 77. AVSA Collections - Standard Plants
- 78. AVSA Collections - Miniatures and Semiminiatures
- 79. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

- 80. Standard African Violets
- 81. Miniature African Violets
- 82. Semiminiature African Violets
- 83. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. Specimen African Violets

- 84. Standard, plain green foliage
- 85. Standard, variegated foliage
- 86. Miniatures, plain foliage
- 87. Miniatures, variegated foliage
- 88. Semiminiatures, plain foliage
- 89. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage

90. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

91. Saintpaulia species

D. Gesneriads

92. Gesneriads (other than African violets)

SECTION XV – SPECIMEN PLANTS

93. Display tables

HORTICULTURE DIVISION Amateur - Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY and on Thursday, April 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 4 through 46.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 45, 46, 49, and 50 as those in classes 4 through 46.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 50 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon velutina, S. Amazon grotei, S. Sigi Falls and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 45.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation: or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow such as, "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in an AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, April 10. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

DESIGN DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, April 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, April 8, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM and 12:30 to 6:00 PM. Members ON TOUR ONLY may enter on Thursday, April 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, April 8, at 9:00 PM. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of six entries in classes 56-69 (interpretive flower and interpretive plant arrangements) and a total of six entries in classes 70-75 (container gardens).

3. Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than February 15, 1999, nor later than March 26, 1999, to: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094-3412. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons who wish to cancel confirmed reservations may write or call (281) 492-2034.

4. All entries must be the creations of the exhibitors, and must be placed by the exhibitors.

5. Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, April 8, until 11:00 PM and on Friday, April 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 AM. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the showroom by 8:00 AM, April 9. All exhibitors and their materials must be checked out and removed from the showroom by midnight on Saturday night, April 10. Instructions on checkout will be provided at the convention.

6. Any type of plant material (except artificial), man-made materials, bases, accessories, backboards, and draping may be used

in all interpretive flower and plant arrangements, unless restricted by the particular class. Accessories are permitted in all container garden classes; but, cut plant materials, underlayments, bases, backboards, and draping are prohibited. Mirror-sided terrariums are permitted. The American flag, national flags, or facsimiles of any flag and live or dead creatures may not be used in any exhibit.

7. No part of any design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.

8. All exhibits must have a 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known). A written subtitle may also be included on the card.

9. Exhibits will be merit judged by qualified AVSA judges. Decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or the rules of this schedule.

10. Only blue ribbon exhibits will be eligible to receive special awards.

11. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 77 and 78 and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 79, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as they are for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminiature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table

may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, miniature, semiminature and all types of trailers, either standard, miniature, or semiminature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068. Phone (816) 781-2160, after 6:00 p.m.

MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before March 13, 1999** will receive table assignments. All reservations received after that date will have **unreserved seating** at meal functions.

Special meal requests must be made to the AVSA Office at time of registration. Requests made directly to the hotel will **not** be honored

WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 52nd Sacramento Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night social hour. Include any information about the slide (names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 1998 Sacramento Convention will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by March 13, 1999 to:

Nancy G. Hayes
9 Cobblestone Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002

ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Thursday Night Social at the 1999 Convention in Houston, Texas. This year's narrator will be Nancy Hayes. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your slides a written description of each slide, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your slides before March 13, 1999, to:

Jackie Jones
607 14th Ave. Box 34
Durant, IA 52747

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

1999 Tours – Houston, TX

Tour Number #1

Texas Bluebonnets and Antique Roses

Monday, April 5, 1999

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We Texans are especially proud of our state flower, the bluebonnet. Bluebonnets grace many of our highways from late March to mid May, along with the primrose, paintbrush, crimson clover and phlox. The route we will travel to the Antique Rose Emporium and the town of Brenham is one of our many bluebonnet trails. Dr. Charles Cole will guide the tour to Brenham and the Rose Emporium's living antiques. Many of the roses were popular in the gardens of early Texas and throughout the Old World. Napoleon's wife, Josephine, grew some featured varieties. The Rose Emporium will be happy to ship your favorite roses, perennials and seeds home for you. Our next stop is Brenham for lunch on your own and shopping. Stop for lunch at "It Must Be Heaven" restaurant for great sandwiches and homemade pies. Our last stop will be for a short tour of the Best Little Creamery in Texas, Ruth Geoke's "Blue Bell Creameries" before driving back to Houston. Wear comfortable shoes, there will be some walking at the emporium.

Cost: \$24.00

Tour Number #2

NASA

Monday, April 5, 1999

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This is a special tour of NASA for the horticulturist interested in how plants will be grown in space. This tour is limited to the first 45 who sign up. We will visit NASA at Space Center Houston and choose lunch on your own at the "Blue Moon Diner" before seeing a special presentation at 1:00 PM by Dr. Daniel Barta, "GARDENING IN SPACE: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE." We will then take a special tour to Dr. Barta's Plant Growth Development Facility, The Advanced Life Support Systems Integration Test Bed and Human-Related Test Chambers. Also on this tour there will be a special tram visit to Mission Control. There is walking on this tour, however, there are ramps, elevators and of course tram rides.

Cost: \$30.00

Tour Number #3

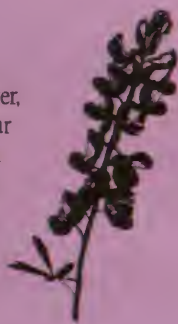
AVSA Office, Becker Printing and Beaumont, Texas

Tuesday, April 6, 1999

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Here is your opportunity to visit our AVSA office, meet the staff and tour Becker Printing, publisher of the AVM. We will first visit the McFaddin-Ward House. The McFaddin-Ward family made its riches from oil and cattle. Lunch at "Cody's" is included.

Cost \$35.00



Tour Number #4

Houston City Tour

Tuesday, April 6, 1999

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This tour will give you a glimpse of Houston and its history. Houston is our nation's 4th largest city and the one furthest south. We will drive past the early settled area of the city, the Houston Medical Center (the largest in the world) and the museum district. The tour will stop and visit the Butterfly Museum that houses hundreds of species of "flying flowers". After lunch on your own at Lubys Cafeteria we will tour Bayou Bend, the historic home of Ima Hogg. We will complete the tour with a drive through River Oaks where you will see some of our finest Houston homes. This tour is limited to the first 45 who sign up. Bayou Bend does not have ramps or elevators to the second floor.

Cost: \$33.00

Tour Number #5

Magic Island

Tuesday, April 6, 1999

7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

This is a fun evening you do not want to miss: We will whisk you off to the world of Ancient Egypt to dine and be entertained as the Egyptian Pharaohs were. There will be a three-course dinner of prime rib Au Jus or Chicken A La Champignon. After dinner you will roam the tomb-like halls, visiting the main theatre for Magic and Comedy. After the main show there are two other small magic shows you can visit. You may also dance, play blackjack or have your fortune told. Please choose your entree in the spaced provide on the registration form. *(Please note blackjack, fortunes and alcoholic beverages are not included in the tour.)*

Cost: \$46.00

Tour Number #6

George Ranch

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The George Ranch is a 480-acre living history park, the center point of a 23,000-acre working Texas cattle ranch. Four generations of the Davis/George family struggled and triumphed to make the ranch a success. A tram will take you on a tour of the land that represents the four generations of family history. It begins at the 1830 farm, then to the 1890's Victorian Home, on to the 1930's ranch house and then to today's working ranch demonstrations.

We will eat a box lunch (included) under the trees at Brazos Bend State Park. After lunch, if time allows, we can take a walk on one of the many nature trails or explore nature exhibits in the visitors center.

Cost: \$32.00

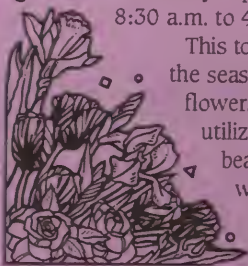


Tour Number #7

Mercer Arboretum and Old Town Spring

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



This tour will take you to Mercer Arboretum to see the seasonal growing of southeast Texas plants and flowers. You will see how Texas' green thumbs utilize the heat and humidity of our area to grow beautiful native plants. From Mercer the bus will take you to Old Town Spring where you will spend the remainder of the day shopping at unique shops of antiques, novelties and boutiques. Lunch is on your own at one of

the three tearooms, or have a hamburger at the old Railroad Caboose or the Old Wuenche Cafe. This tour too, requires walking on gravel and sidewalks.

Cost: \$20.00

Tour Number #8

Great Caruso's Dinner Theater

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Great Caruso's is a small intimate, unique Italian style dinner theater. After dinner there will be a play, usually a musical comedy, often involving the audience. We will order dinner from the varied menu. Coffee and desert will be served at intermission. This should be an early, though fun, evening.

(Please note: This will be a guided group walk to the dinner theater as it is next to the hotel.)

Cost: \$41.00



Tour Number #9

NASA (#2)

Thursday, April 8, 1999

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This trip to NASA's Space Center Houston will allow time to walk among the large rock-ets displayed out doors to accom-modate their massive sizes. They include a Red Stone Booster Rocket that sent some of the first satellites into space, the giant Saturn 5B that lifted men from the earth, on their way to the moon, and many others. Inside, see an Imax movie and feel the sensations of traveling in space and visiting the moon. There are displays of the lunar module, the lunar rover, and the Hubbell Telescope Satellite. There will also be a conducted tram tour of the Johnson Space Center Facility where the astronauts train. Lunch will be on at your leisure in the Blue Moon Diner. After lunch there will be a presentation by Dr. Barta, "GARDENING IN SPACE: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE." Wear comfortable shoes because there will be a lot of walking.

Cost: \$30.00



Tour Number #10

Galveston an Moody Gardens

Thursday, April 8, 1999

8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You heard Glenn Campbell sing about Galveston in the late '60's - now you can visit the island. We will take you to Moody Gardens for a guided tour of the Rainforest Pyramid. We will then drive down Seawall Boulevard along the Gulf of Mexico, then to the downtown Strand. Here the bus will drop us off to shop, and eat lunch on your own. The Strand consists of unique boutiques, antiques shops, gift shops and restaurants. You may visit the Railroad Museum, the sailing ship, Elisa, among the many sights and sounds along the Galveston harbor and shrimp boat docks. If you want to sample traditional Gulf Coast Seafood, then eat at Hill's Pier 19, at the end of 21st Street. This restaurant is situated among the fishing and a shrimp boats docked at the port and is one of our favorites.

Cost: \$28.00



Deep Sea Fishing Trip

with Dr. Charles Cole

Come to Texas and fish the waters where pirates once sailed!

Travel 35 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico to catch red snapper, king mackerel, trigger fish and other species. See the beautiful Gulf waters and more than fifty species of birds.

All tackle and bait will be furnished. Licenses are required, but that won't be a problem. We plan to leave on the morning of Tuesday, April 6, 1999, and be back before dark. Transportation to Galveston will be provided. **The trip is tentative upon the number of people planning to go, as well as the weather.** Captains will hold this date open for us until the end of February.

Cost of the trip will also depend on the number going, and will range from \$60 - \$90. Boats are available for from 6 to 35 people. If you are interested, please send your refundable **\$50 deposit per person** by check along with your name, number in your party, and the total of deposits included, to Ann Miller, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388, by February 28, 1999. *Checks will not be cashed until trip is confirmed.*

**Don't forget the
AVSA Auction
at the
Saturday Luncheon!
See page 19 of the
January/February 1999
AVM for details!**

53rd Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, April 4, 1999 to Sunday, April 11, 1999

"Lone Star African Violet Round-Up"

SUNDAY, April 4, 1999

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AVSA Convention Pre-Con
Registration
Information

MONDAY, April 5, 1999

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration
Information
Tour # 1 - Texas Bluebonnets and Antique Roses
Publication Comm. Meeting
Tour # 2 - NASA
Information
Registration
Registration

TUESDAY, April 6, 1999

6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Building Maintenance Fund Meeting
Registration
Tour # 3 - AVSA Office, Becker Printing, Beaumont, TX
Tour # 4 - Houston City Tour
Information
Information
Registration
Awards Committee Meeting
Tour #5 - Magic Island
Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 7, 1999

7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Registration
Judging School
Research Committee Meeting
Tour # 7 - Mercer Arboretum and Old Town Spring
Tour # 6 - George Ranch
Information
Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
Ways and Means Table, Omaha Promotional Table
New Director's Orientation
Board of Directors Luncheon
Board of Directors Opening Meeting
Information
Registration
AVSA Information and Sales
Affiliate's Meeting
Classification and Entries for **convention workers ONLY**
Tour #8 - Great Caruso's Dinner Theater

THURSDAY, April 8, 1999

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.
11:00 p.m.

Teachers Breakfast
Registration
Commercial Sales Open
Information
Tour #10 - Galveston and Moody Gardens
Nominating Committee Meeting
Hospitality Room Open
AVSA Information and Sales
Tour #9 - NASA (#2)
Classification and Entries
Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
Ways and Means Table, Omaha Promotional Table
Information
Classification and Entries
AVSA Information and Sales
Hospitality Room Open
Registration
President's Reception for Board of Directors
1998 Sacramento Convention and New Introduction Slides
Entries for **Those on Tours Only**
Social Break
"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum
Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 9, 1999

6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. to Completion
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. to Completion
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. to Completion
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n

Design Exhibitors will be permitted to finish designs and replace blossoms *for replacement of blossoms only.*
Commercial Members Breakfast
Information
Registration
Judges and Clerks Instructions
Hospitality Room Open
AVSA Information and Sales
Commercial Sales Open

Presentation #1 - "Satin Sheets & Silver Spurs" by Pat Hancock
Presentation #2 - Ar-"Range"-ments by Jan Davidson & Blanca Fuster
Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
Ways and Means Table, Omaha Promotional Table
Judging of Show
Violets Online Social
Information
Presentation #3 - "Mutt & Jeff Go To the Roundup" by Richard Nicholas & Patricia Tillman
Presentation #4 - "Don't Fence Me In" by Dolores Gibbs
Registration
AVSA Information & Sales
Hospitality Room Open
Presentation #5 - "Violets at the Chuckwagon" by Kent & Joyce Stork
Presentation #6 - "Tracking Those Pesky Critters" by Dr. Charles Cole
Photography - Library and AVM
Opening Reception (cash bar)
Opening Dinner - "Tex-Mex Night" Show Awards will be Announced
Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

SATURDAY, April 10, 1999

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Showroom open to photographers only
Judges' Breakfast and Workshop
Registration

8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m. to Completion
 9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.
 9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n
 10:15 p.m.
 12:00 m/n

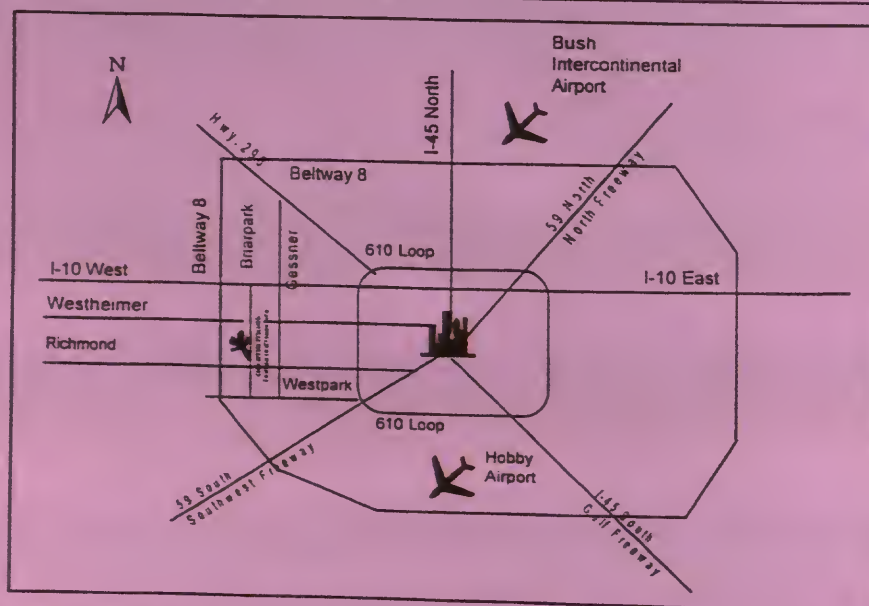
Information

Presentation #7 - "No Bull About It: The Facts About Gesneriads" by Dale Martens
Presentation #8 - "Mutt & Jeff Go To The Roundup" by Richard Nicholas & Patricia Tillman
 Hospitality Room Open
 AVSA Information & Sales
 Show Room Open
 Commercial Sales Open
 Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states
 Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
 Ways and Means Table, Omaha Promotional Table
 Violets "On Line" Meeting
 Luncheon and Auction
 Registration
 Hospitality Room Open
 Annual Membership Meeting, Open Forum and Raffles
 President's Reception & Hospitality Hour (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)
 "Classically Texan" Installation Banquet
 Commercial Display Tables Checkout
 Commercial Sales Breakdown
 Entry Checkout Begins
 Show Room Closes

SUNDAY, April 11, 1999

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown
 Local Storage Clean-up
 Commercial Storage Clean-up
 Show Room Clean-up
 Board of Directors Meeting



DIRECTIONS TO THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL FROM BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT:

From any terminal, follow the Interstate 45 signs out of the airport on to John F. Kennedy Boulevard (JFK). Follow JFK SOUTH to the Beltway 8 WEST exit. Turn right onto Beltway 8, and follow the Beltway through 3 toll booths to the Westheimer exit. Turn left under the freeway, travel 3 traffic lights to Briarpark, and turn right. Go 1/2 block and the Hotel is on the right.
 (Travel Time 45 Minutes)

DIRECTIONS TO THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL FROM WILLIAM P. HOBBY AIRPORT:

From any terminal, continue straight out and take a left on Airport Blvd. Take a left on Telephone Road. Travel approximately 3 miles to Beltway 8 and travel West on the Beltway. Travel through two toll islands (\$1.00 each) and exit Westheimer. Turn right on Westheimer, your second light will be Briarpark Drive. Turn right on Briarpark and the hotel will be on your right.
 (Travel Time 35 Minutes)

AVSA 1999 HOUSTON CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

1. "Satin Sheets and Silver Spurs"

Friday, April 9, 1999 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
By Pat Hancock

Pat Hancock, creator of the wonderful "Buckeye" series, comes to the Texas round-up to share her hybridizing secrets and successes. Pat credits Priscilla Landaker, a super Ohio violet grower, as the person who first introduced her to this wonderful hobby. As a former breeder of champion poodles and cats, it was only natural for Pat to want to "make her own." Though Pat had grown violets since the 1950's, it is only since she became an "empty nester" that she expanded into the hybridizing area of the hobby. Our Texas convention is very fortunate to have Pat Hancock illustrate her hybridizing motto, "anybody can do it."

2. Ar - "RANGE" - ments

Friday, April 9, 1999 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
By Jan Davidson and Blanca Fuster

The Dallas Metroplex area is proud to be represented by two of its finest designers at the Texas roundup. Both Jan and Blanca belong to the same affiliate in the Dallas area. A visit to the design division of their show is a promise of a display of incredible talent. Jan, a military wife, has always had a love for plants. She bought her first violets while she and husband, Ron, were at Ft. Hood in Killeen, TX. Her designs are a delight to behold and are excellent examples of the principles and elements of design. Blanca, an educational administrator from Puerto Rico, consistently wins awards with her colorful and original arrangements. Blanca is a popular workshop presenter whose discussion of the use of color in design is beneficial to both novice and advanced designers.

3. "Mutt and Jeff Go To The Roundup"

Friday, April 9, 1999 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
By Richard Nicholas and Patricia Tillman

Richard grows the "big ones" and Patricia grows the "little ones." These two growers have teamed up to show and tell how they consistently produce winners. Patricia, an East Texas violet grower, has won countless awards with her perfect semi-miniature and miniature violets. She will share how she grooms and pots up her little ones so they will be on a perfect schedule for an upcoming show. Richard, a university vice-president and a prize winning grower from the north Texas area, will compare and contrast large violet growing techniques to Patricia's small violet techniques. The presentation will include a good discussion on some of the differences of the time table between growing the little ones and the big ones for show. This workshop will be repeated on Saturday morning.

4. "Don't Fence Me In"

Friday, April 9, 1999 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
By Dolores Gibbs

Dolores Gibbs, an outstanding grower and designer from Central Texas, will take us on an enjoyable tour of container garden how-to information. Dolores has enjoyed her violet growing and designing hobby for about ten years and is a consistent award winner. She won the Best Container Garden award at the AVSA national show in Atlanta in 1996 and has won numerous "best" awards in both state and local shows. In describing her success in container gardens, Dolores says, "You have to love what you're doing, and I love doing it!"

5. "Violets at the Chuckwagon"

Friday, April 9, 1999 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
By Kent and Joyce Stork

Violets, like humans, have certain nutritional needs and who better to tell us about these needs than Kent and Joyce Stork from Nebraska. The Storks own and operate a floral shop with a specialty in African violets. They have won numerous awards for their outstanding new hybrids every year at the national conventions since 1981. Their "For Beginner's" column in the African Violet Magazine offers a great source of information in each issue. This delightful couple will tell us how to keep our violets looking healthy and beautiful.

6. "Tracking Those Pesky Critters"

Friday, April 9, 1999 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
By Dr. Charles Cole

Dr. Cole, a research entomologist at Texas A & M University, has presented countless lectures and has written a multitude of articles on African violet pests. As a leading "pest tracker," Dr. Cole will give practical help in identifying and treating pests and diseases which can invade our African violet collections.

7. "No Bull About It: The Facts About Gesneriads"

Saturday, April 10, 1999 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
By Dale Martens

Dale Martens, our "Gesneri-Advice" columnist, is an AGGS Master Judge/Teacher and an enthusiastic gesneriad hybridizer. One of her hybrids is *Streptocarpus* "Texas Hot Chili." She will bring to the presentation a variety of new hybrids as well as rare and unusual gesneriads. A few lucky audience members will go home with new plants! Don't miss this one!

8. "Mutt and Jeff Go To the Roundup"

Saturday, April 10, 1999 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
By Richard Nicholas and Patricia Tillman (repeated from Friday)

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

53rd Annual Convention & Show

April 4-11, 1999 - Adam's Mark Hotel - Houston, Texas

Call for 1999 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, April 10, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., at Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 1999 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, April 7, 1999, 2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas and Sunday, April 11, 1999, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 1999 Open Forum Meeting

The 13th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 10, 1999 at Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, April 7, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student (renewal) _____ Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Irene Merrell, W283 Hillendale Dr., Oconomowoc, WI 53066-5530. The test will be based on latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 15, 1999.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1999.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **DO NOT** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 10, 1999 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will be notified of your assignment.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council

Experience: _____ Minis/Semis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Design _____ Commercial

Attention Judges Clerks

Students and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1999.**

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Apt. # _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

I would like to enter the following interpretive design classes: (Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Alternate Choices: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

I would like to enter Container Gardens in the following classes: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked February 15, 1999 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than March 26, 1999**, to: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094-3412.

AVSA's 53rd Annual Convention & Show
"Lone Star African Violet Round-Up"
 April 4-11, 1999 – Adam's Mark Hotel - Houston, Texas
AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Houston, Texas Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office – 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by **March 13, 1999**. There will be a \$5.00 paper work fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after March 13, 1999 will be \$65.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box	Apt. #		City/State	Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention _____

(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member | (E) Judge | (H) Commercial Member | (K) Board Member |
| (B) Life member | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner | (M) Non-Member (guest) |
| (D) Associate Member | | | |

This is my (#) _____ convention Name to go on Badge _____

(Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

____ Yes ____ No **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**
(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? _____
Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
--------------	---------	------------	-------------------

TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car _____ Plane _____
 Rental Car _____ Airline _____
 Other _____
 RV _____

If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____

If by plane, departure day/date and time _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Adam's Mark Hotel _____

Other _____

After March 13, 1999, each registration will be \$65.00 or \$68.00 respectively.

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$40.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after March 13, 1999)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$43.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after March 13, 1999)	\$68.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$35.00	\$ _____
International Member (after March 13, 1999)	\$60.00	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION		\$ _____

Meals:

____ 1. Wed.	Board of Director's Luncheon (Croissant Sandwich & Tortilla Soup) . .	\$17.00	\$ _____
____ 2. Thurs.	Teacher's Breakfast (Traditional Breakfast)	\$14.50	\$ _____
____ 3. Fri.	Commercial Breakfast (The Southwestern)	\$15.00	\$ _____
____ 4. Fri.	Open Dinner ("Tex-Mex" Buffet)	\$34.00	\$ _____
____ 5. Sat.	Judges Breakfast (The Sunrise)	\$15.00	\$ _____
____ 6. Sat.	Luncheon/Auction (Grilled Chicken)	\$21.00	\$ _____
____ 7. Sat.	Installation Banquet (Prime Rib)	\$37.50	\$ _____
TOTAL MEALS			\$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, **BEFORE March 13, 1999. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 13, 1999 WILL RECEIVE TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. ALL RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL HAVE UNRESERVED SEATING AT MEAL FUNCTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

TOURS: (3, 5, 6 and 8, lunch or dinner is included in the cost of these tours)

___ 1. Mon., April 5	Texas Bluebonnets and Antique Roses	\$24.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Mon., April 5	NASA #1	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Tues., April 6	AVSA/Beaumont	\$35.00	\$ _____
___ 4. Tues., April 6	Houston City Tour	\$33.00	\$ _____
___ 5. Tues., April 6	Magic Island (select Entrée*)	\$46.00	\$ _____
___ 6. Wed., April 7	George Ranch	\$32.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Wed., April 7	Mercer/Old Town Spring	\$20.00	\$ _____
___ 8. Wed., April 7	Great Caruso's	\$41.00	\$ _____
___ 9. Thurs., April 8	Nasa #2	\$30.00	\$ _____
___ 10. Thurs., April 8	Galveston & Moody Gardens	\$28.00	\$ _____

*Select your evening meal **Tour 5 only:** _____ Chicken A La Champignon, or _____ Prime Rib Au Jus
We reserve the right of cancellation if minimum number is not met.

TOTAL TOURS

\$ _____

Thursday, April 8, 1999

- ___ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. "Social Hour, Slides of 52nd Sacramento Convention and New Introductions
- ___ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum", Moderator: Mary Boland,
Panelists: Dr. Charles, Cole, Hortense Pittman, Doris Brownlie

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, April 9, 1999

- ___ 1. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. "Satin Sheets & Silver Spurs" by Pat Hancock
- ___ 2. 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ar-"Range"-ments by Jan Davidson & Blanca Fuster
- ___ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Mutt & Jeff Go To the Roundup" by Richard Nicholas & Patricia Tillman
- ___ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Don't Fence Me In" by Dolores Gibbs
- ___ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Violets at the Chuckwagon" by Kent & Joyce Stork
- ___ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Tracking Those Pesky Critters" by Dr. Charles Cole

Saturday, April 10, 1999

- ___ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "No Bull About It: The Facts About Gesneriads" by Dale Martens
- ___ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Mutt & Jeff Go To the Roundup" by Richard Nicholas & Patricia Tillman

PAYMENT:

Please double check to insure all numbers are listed correctly.
Check one:

☐ Visa # _____

Expires _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expires _____

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

Signature (If using card) _____

Total Registration \$ _____

Total Meals \$ _____

Total Tours \$ _____

TOTAL

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NOTE: Cancellations must be received
by March 13, 1999 to be entitled to a refund.
There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:
Convention Registration

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

(409) 839-4725

AVSA 1999 Houston Convention Growers Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, April 8, 1999 8:15 p.m.
Moderator Mary A. Boland
Panelists Dr. Charles Cole, Hortense Pittman
and Doris Brownlie

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African Violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African Violets in designs don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.

1999 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Make check or money order payable to **Adam's Mark Hotel**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Adam's Mark Hotel**.
Phone number: 1-800-444-ADAM; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. EST or 1-713-978-7400; Fax: 1-713-735-2726.

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)
Room rates subject to **City & Hotel Tax**.
Reservations **must** be received by: **March 13, 1999** The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

Exit the Sam Houston tollway go south. Have \$2.00 in quarters for two toll booths. After the second toll booth stay in right lane (1/4 mile) and exit Westheimer, at the light turn left and go under tollway, turn right at the second traffic light to Briarpark (do not count traffic light for tollway frontage road). Go 1/2 block and the Hotel is on the right.

HOSTS - HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Houston Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by March 13, 1999 to: **Roy & Marilyn Hall, 5905 Imogene, Houston, TX 77074-7729. Phone (713) 774-2120.**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

\$69.00 - Single/Double \$79.00 - Triple

\$89 - Quad

Plus 15% Tax

Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No Preference _____

Age: Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and Over _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

All requests must be made by March 1, 1999, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is March 13, 1999.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO DRIVE YOUR RV ...

Planning on doing some additional sight seeing either before or after the convention? TACO, Texas Association of Campground Owners, lists the following affiliates in the northwest to west Houston area within fifteen to thirty minutes driving time from the hotel:

KOA Campground Houston West/Brookshire
1-800-787-5888

Elsevier's Yogi Bear's Jellystone at Hempstead
1-409-826-4111

USA RV Park at Sugar Land
1-800-828-6891

Please contact the specific campground for information regarding facilities available and reservations.

ATTENTION!

Airline information is **NOT** included this year since we have no airline contracts. Most convention attendees are able to find better rates with other airline promotions and we have had little, or no participation in the drawing for free tickets.



Rodeo Country

Exhibited by: Ron Davidson

Hybridized by: J. C. Munk

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Large

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

A writer contacted me recently about an interesting question. They claimed that some dog breeders have emphasized the "looks" of the animal and have paid little attention to the traits of "health" and "strength". The result has been animals that look good, but often have health problems. They asked if I thought a similar selection process had occurred in African violets. Have hybridizers placed so much emphasis on the flowers of the plant that we have lost their strength and vigor over the years?

After giving the question a great deal of thought and discussing the issue with the membership of two electronic discussion groups, I would say the answer to this question is "yes" and "no". There has definitely been improvements over time in the flowers of African violets. The wider range of colors and flower types available today as compared to our vintage violets and the species shows the improvements very clearly. We also enjoy a wider range of flower diversity in the miniatures and trailers. On the other hand, some of today's cultivars are likely not as robust or perhaps as disease resistant as some of the older plants. This would appear to be a "negative" side of the selection process, suggesting that the health of the plants has declined over time. However, the vintage violets that are still available are likely the "best" of their generation and have survived over time because of their strengths. When compared to the "weakest" of today's cultivars, the vintage violets might well appear to be stronger. Another factor, however, is that the vintage plants were grown and selected under natural light conditions while many of today's plants are grown under artificial light. Plants selected for one light condition don't always grow well when moved to the other. Thus, the vintage plants may not appear to be as strong as today's plants. It is often a matter of which plants you are comparing and what type of growing conditions are used.

All in all, I'd say that today's plants are a general improvement over the older types. Plants that are weak by today's demanding standards don't last long on the market.

Hybridizers who release inferior plants don't stay in business. While we might not have yet developed the "perfect plant", many of the newer cultivars are a considerable improvement on their ancestors.

Q: Why do we need to save the vintage violets? Since they were developed from the species and we still have all of them, couldn't we "recreate" any of the vintage violets if we needed to?

A: The vintage violets have traits that were developed over several generations of sexual reproduction. Since sexual reproduction randomly mixes the traits of the parents, it is generally difficult if not impossible to "recreate" a specific genetic type or mixture. Also, many of the vintage violets contain traits that originated as mutations from the species. Since mutations are also a random event, it would not be possible to "recreate" them. Because of these reasons, the vintage violets should be conserved. It would be next to impossible to recreate the unique genetic traits of these plants.

Q: Is it possible to cross African violets with other members of the gesneriad family?

A: While almost all species of African violets can be crossed with each other to produce offspring, the ability to cross African violets with other members of their plant family is less clear. Recent DNA studies have suggested that the closest relatives to African violets are in genus *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella*. While I have heard of one report that hybrids had been created between African violets and *Streptocarpus*, I have been unable to verify the study. Some hybridizers with whom I have discussed this question, have tried to hybridize these plants, but they have not yet been successful in producing seed. Since there are a large number of species in genus *Streptocarpus* it may be

possible that one or more will eventually be crossed with African violets. It would be interesting to speculate what the hybrids would look like and if traits such as scent (some *Streptocarpus* species are scented) could be introduced to violets this way.

Q: *What would you suggest for creating a violet that has a "true" shade of blue?*

A: The difficulty in making suggestions for this cross is knowing exactly what you mean by a "true" shade of blue. Assuming you mean a light or medium blue without any hints of purple, you might consider the following. Look for a plant that has very pale or light flower color. The pale shades are caused by a genetic dominant that modifies the amount of pigment in the flower. If this trait is combined with blue flower color, then many of the offspring will have light to medium blue flowers. Also try to choose a parent that lacks the "bluing" factor trait. This secondary pigment character is a genetic dominant and tends to give blue/purple overtones to the flower colors. In blue pigmented

flowers, this factor gives purple shades which you want to avoid. Plants with bright coral or clear coral red flowers usually lack the bluing trait. Therefore, try a cross of a clear coral red plant with a light blue. The first generation will likely be blues of various types. Backcross one of these offspring to the clear coral red parent. I'd estimate about 25% of the next generation will have light blue flowers and lack the overtones created by the bluing factor gene. These flowers should be fairly close to the "true" blue shade you wanted. Good Luck!

Q: *I want to maintain the crown variegated foliage of one plant in a cross. Since I don't have much space, is there any particular way I should make the cross to minimize the number of seedlings I'd have to raise and evaluate?*

A: Crown variegation is inherited only through the maternal parent. Use this plant as the seed parent and many of the offspring should have the variegation. I would still suggest raising as many of the seedlings as space permits so that the results can be fully evaluated.

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 1 AUGUST TO 30 SEPTEMBER

Windsor AVS, W. Hartford, CT \$25.00
Margaret Kopsa, Trumansburg, NY 10.00
Doris Inskeep, Urbana, OH. 2.00
Enid Wood, Menlo Park, CA. 10.00
Millissa Culver, Longmont, CO 2.00
Joy B. Phillips, Morristown, NJ 5.00
J.A.V.A #221, Metairie, LA 25.00
Desert Sun AVS, Glendale, AZ 131.00

In fond memory of Pat Isbell

Donna Williams, Olympia, WA 7.00
Luwan Murphy, Hortonville, WI. 2.00
Ted Nelson, Phoenix, AZ 2.00
Peggy Stangas, Tenaflly, NJ. 2.00
Sheri Smith, Bedford, TX 1.00
Sandy Shaughnessy, Wilmore, KY 10.00
Anita Rudolph, New Hyde Park, NY 10.00

In memory of my brother, Emil Engel

Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX 25.00
Miss Gwen Goodship-Patience, Langley, England. . 5.00
Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Cameron Park, CA . . . 25.00

Apply to the computer fund

Thelma Heinrich, Cave Creek, AZ 5.00
Sylvia Siegel, Norwalk, CT 10.00
Karen Jones, New Rochelle, NY 7.00

Kathy Linden, Mesa, AZ \$7.00
Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD 5.00
Mrs. Howard Terry, Hagarville, AR 10.00
Fay Thomas, Cooroy, Australia. 5.00
Janet Benson, Baltimore, MD 10.00
Union County Chapter AVS, Roselle Park, NJ . . . 15.00
Unpredictables AVS, Grain Valley, MO 10.00
Mid-Polk AVS, Auburndale, FL 10.00
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN 10.00
Mid-America AVS, Kansas City, MO 20.00
Joan Porter, Fairfax, VA. 5.00
Derald Richards, Jr., Eagle Creek, OR. 1.00
San Marcos AVS, San Marcos, TX. 10.00
Frances Olson, Rush City, MN 10.00
Jane Zillman, Tonawanda, NY. 10.00
Louisiana Council of AV Judges & Growers . . . 25.00
Stephen Maruszak, Westport, CT 2.00
Claude Morrisette, Brookfield, CT. 5.00
Edna Monroe, Torrington, CT 10.00
Northern California Affiliated Chapters. 200.00

Surplus funds of the

AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Fund

Total \$701.00

Showcase

Rebel's Crested Robin

1998 Introduction

Grown and Hybridized by:

Ruth Bann

Large



Ness' Angel Face

Exhibited by: Dorothy Kosowsky

Hybridized by: D. Ness

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Semiminiature





Tomboy Blue

Exhibited by: Elsie Ross

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Semiminiature

Interpretive Flower Arrangements

by Edna Rourke
Shelton, CT

To some, just the word "design" is intimidating and really, it shouldn't be. While, indeed, design can be challenging, the finished product or end result brings satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment to the designer as well as visual enjoyment and beauty to the viewer.

The design division in an African violet show is divided into three sections: Interpretive Flower Arrangement, Interpretive Plant Arrangement, and Container Gardens. According to the AVSA Handbook, the purpose of Interpretive Arrangements is to display African violets in an artistic manner. In flower arrangements, African violet blossoms should be emphasized and, in plant arrangements, the African violet plant should be the focal point.

I would like to focus on Interpretive Flower (scaled down design) Arrangements. There are certain requirements with which an exhibitor should be familiar. They are:

The Schedule - It is the law of the show and the start of any design. An exhibitor should read and follow it carefully. The dimensions, height, width, and depth, should be clearly and specifically stated. When making an entry into any one of these classes, the space allotted should be used to its fullest and best potential. In other words, the design should fill the space but not exceed it. An easy way to make certain this will happen is to make your own niche by cutting either poster board or cardboard into pieces the sizes of the dimensions given in the schedule.

Container - Almost any type of container can be used. It has to be in proportion to the size of the space in which it is to be placed. It shouldn't be so large that the material looks overwhelmed or so small that it is dwarfed by the material. Neutral colors such as beige, gray, black, or green are preferable. Containers should be suitable to the category of the class in which the entry is to be made. They can be of dull metal, ceramic, driftwood, etc. The only limit is the imagination.

Type - The best choice is usually a line design. They are easier to handle and require little plant material. Line is the visual path the eye follows and can be either straight, curved, diagonal, or vertical, etc. Curved lines, usually the most graceful, create rhythm.

The length of the line is determined by both the dimensions given in the schedule and the size of the container. To determine the length, measure the height and width of the

container, add them together, and make the line 1 1/2 times that measurement. If your line material is very thin the lines can be strengthened by adding height but you should never exceed the line by adding material beyond it. Plant material should never touch the sides or back of the niche if one is used.

Plant Material - Try to choose material that will hold up well. Woody or twiggy types are best and may be of wisteria, bittersweet, forsythia, ivy, or grape vine, etc. Any material that isn't too stiff may be used. It can be wired into the desired shape and then added to the design. When the wire is removed, the material should hold its shape. Remember when doing small designs, small foliage should be used.

It should be noted; according to the AVSA Handbook, never use artificial plant material, an American flag, or live creatures in any design class.

Conditioning - This is one of the most important steps in doing any design and it should be done well in advance of putting the design together. Woody or twiggy stems should be crushed with either a hammer or mallet to allow the material to absorb water. African violet blossoms should also be well conditioned.

To condition blossoms, first water the plant the day before and let it become turgid. Cut nearly open buds and blossoms near the base of the stem. Immerse the stem up to the bloom in water that is barely warm. Place in a plastic bag and store overnight in a cool place. It should be noted that when choosing blossoms for design, choose them from plants that have strong stems. Flowers should be upright and have good color, substance and be freshly opened. Color is the choice of the designer, but remember, too many colors are disturbing and will take away from your design. To keep it in good scale and proportion, the blossoms should be no greater than 1/3 the size of the container. I have found that the miniature and semiminature blossoms seem to work best in smaller designs.

Once all of these steps have been completed, it's time to put everything together:

First, set up your niche according to the dimensions in

*(Interpretive Flower Arrangements continued on
bottom of page 39)*

Growing Tips

by Ina Beaver
Dartmouth, NS, Canada

Make a note of when each violet comes into bloom well ahead of an upcoming show. Some plants produce bloom stalks either more quickly, or more slowly, than the recommended eight weeks for doubles or six weeks for singles. Weather makes a difference even for those of us who grow under lights. For spring shows, warm sunny weather may bring on blooms a week or more ahead of time while cold rainy weather delays them. Luck, as well as "know how" makes a blue ribbon exhibit. All of us who enter shows know the feeling of having to leave a potential blue ribbon plant home that we've babied for months. A winning plant never gets that way in a short time.

To push a violet into opening reluctant blossoms, place the plant on a spatter screen over a pot of hot water several times a day. To delay a plant from blooming too soon, place it in a cool spot. It also helps to pray a lot!

If your plant leaves are hugging the pot, the plant may have been allowed to dry out too much, or it's trying to escape too much light (the outer leaves have probably bleached out too). Maybe it's inclined to do so naturally. Many of the girl leaf varieties do this. Use a leaf support ring or make one by cutting a plastic or paper plate in half-cut a small circle in the center of the plate and gently insert the two halves under the leaves, taping the plate if necessary. Leave in place until the leaves firm up. If the leaves of your violets turn up instead of properly over-lapping the cause is usually insufficient light. They may be too close to other plants or the leaves may just want to misbehave. Give the plant more room, place it on tinfoil (shiny side up) or place a coin on a wayward leaf and the weight of the coin will

force the leaf down. To correct symmetry on a show plant, let it dry out a bit, move the leaf slightly towards the desired position and hold the petiole (stem) in place with a plastic stake. Keep doing this every few days until the leaf is in its proper position.

If the crown of a variegated African violet becomes all white feed it with 10-10-27 or 20-20-20 fertilizer. Leaves with very little green are incapable of growth. I like to feed my starter plants with 20-20-20, graduating to 5-50-17 as they become established. If variegation is lost it's usually caused by too much heat. Some plants will revert to normal variegation later in the crown, but the green leaves will remain green. Some cultivars never do regain their variegation. If you're growing in a warm room, try to keep variegated plants as cool as possible; most of them are satisfied with a bit less light. As a rule of thumb, dark-leaved plants with dark blooms require the most light, next are lighter-leaved plants, then variegated. Some growers will disagree with me, so know your plants.

High temperatures may cause centers to become tight, bloom stalks to be shorter, or blooms failing to open or fading quickly.

Lack of humidity may cause blooms to dry up instead of opening. Plants grown under lights may be sprayed lightly with hot water.

Place plants grown in natural light on saucers over trays of water with stones or marbles on the bottom. Grouping plants together helps as well.

Reprinted from "Chatter", Journal of the AVS of Canada



(Interpretive Flower Arrangements continued from page 38)
the schedule. Then, put down a piece of plastic on which to work. Prepare your container with either oasis or a pin holder. If using a pin holder, attach it to the container with either floral clay or cling. If using oasis, make sure it's wet and then tape it in place to the container. Establish the line in your container, add material to support the line and add

blossoms and buds. Place buds and smaller blossoms at the top and gradually increase their size. Don't forget to add plant material to the back to create depth. Make sure you have enough water in the container, and mist the design with water. Remember to be sure to check the blossoms and plant materials in your design during a show. Replace any faded blossoms or wilted material as needed.



Rob's Hot Foot

Exhibited by: Fred Packer

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Semiminiature

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri. 3:16 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	Full 9:50 pm
2 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Sun. 5:31 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
4 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Tue. 10:49 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
6 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
7 Thu. 7:53 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
9 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th 9:21 am
10 Sun. 7:48 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
11 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Tue. 8:23 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
13 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
14 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Fri. 7:29 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
16 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
17 Sun. 4:12 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	New 10:47 am
18 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
19 Tue. 10:41 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
20 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
21 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 Fri. 3:26 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
23 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
24 Sun. 6:53 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd 2:16 pm
25 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Tue. 9:30 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
27 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Thu. 11:57 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
29 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Sat. 3:16 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
31 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 11:07 am

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 8:37 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
2 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
3 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
4 Thu. 4:55 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
5 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
6 Sat. 4:06 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 6:58 am
9 Tue. 4:38 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Thu. 4:10 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
12 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
13 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
14 Sun. 12:57 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
15 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
16 Tue. 6:40 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 1:40 am
17 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Thu. 10:07 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
19 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
20 Sat. 12:29 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
21 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
22 Mon. 2:54 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 9:43 pm
23 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
24 Wed. 6:09 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
25 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
26 Fri. 10:44 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

Vigorous Violets; The Effect of NPK Balanced Fertilizers and the Vitamin on the Crown and Foliar Growth of the Saintpaulia

A Science Project by Joshua Patel
Riverdale, IL

(Editor's Note: Joshua Patel had great success with this science project. After winning results in his school's science fair, he was a semi-finalist in regional competition, and received an outstanding award in state competition where he was one of two junior high school students to win "Best in Category" - Botany.)

There are many inorganic fertilizers with various NPK balanced formulas all claiming to be the best for African violets. The purpose of my experiment was to determine which nutritive agent was the most effective stimulator of crown and foliar growth in the African violet plantlet: an inorganic water soluble fertilizer with either a high proportion of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, a general purpose equally balanced formula, or a solution of the vitamin thiamine. Or would the plantlets grow and thrive given only water? Through my research I discovered that most plant experts believed that a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content was the best choice for immature plantlets. In addition, according to Montague Free, "Some amateur growers believe they get excellent results from dissolving thiamine tablets in prescribed amounts and occasionally watering plants with them." (Free, Montague, 1979).

My hypothesis states that as the element nitrogen promotes leaf and stem strength and stimulates vegetative growth, generally, an inorganic fertilizer with a high proportion of nitrogen in an NPK balanced formula would be the preferred nutritive agent to stimulate growth. The variables in my experiment were the various NPK inorganic balanced formula fertilizers. The proportions were as follows: 30-10-10, 10-60-10, 5-50-17, and 20-20-20. Another variable was the 50 mg. thiamine tablets. The control was water.

The African violet plantlets were propagated from leaf cuttings. Seventy-five cuttings were taken from five parent plants of the same pink cultivar. The 75 initial cuttings produced 70 rooted cuttings from which 65 immature plantlets were obtained. Sixty of the healthiest plantlets were selected for the experiment. Each plantlet was transplanted into its own 7 cm. plastic pot. The potting medium was a mixture of

vermiculite and commercial African violet potting soil. For the first month only water was given as needed.

The 60 plantlets were divided into 6 groups of 10. Each group was placed in a plastic tray and marked according to the nutritive agent given. Four groups were each fed with a different inorganic NPK balanced water soluble granular fertilizer. One group was fed with a solution of thiamine and water. The control group received only plain water. The plantlets had a scheduled feeding every 7 days. The amount of nutritive agent given to each group was as follows: those receiving the inorganic NPK balanced formula were given up to, but not exceeding, 10 mL (depending on the dryness of the potting medium) of solution by combining 1.25 mL. of each group's appropriate fertilizer per one L. of water; those receiving thiamine were given up to but not exceeding 10 mL. of solution made by dissolving 1-50 mg. tablet in 1 L. of water; the control plantlets were given up to but not exceeding 10 mL. of plain water. The parent leaves remained attached to the plantlets throughout the experiment.

This experiment dealt only with the visible signs of growth in the African violet plantlet: increase in crown height, leaf span diameter, and the total number of leaves. The measurements and leaf count were taken at the beginning of the experiment and at two additional intervals. The experiment was conducted for 2 months.

The plantlets received 16 hours of light per day in order to promote satisfactory growth. The plant trays were placed on the floor in front of a large floor-to-ceiling picture window facing southward. Artificial light in the form of a 65 watt GE incandescent plant light reflector lamp was utilized when natural sunlight was not available. The lamp was placed 1 m. away from the plantlet trays.

All of the plantlets made visible growth progress regardless of the nutritive agent given to them. Even the control group receiving water made progress in the beginning. The plantlets given thiamine had the largest total increase in crown height: 20.0 cm. Those receiving the general purpose

(Vigorous Violets continued on bottom of page 45)

Propagating African Violets



Suckers are one of the fastest methods of propagating plants. Some growers propagate chimeras by suckers since chimeras cannot be propagated by leaves.



Leaves are the most common means of propagating plants. Use a healthy, firm leaf. Cut the petiole at about a 45 degree angle with a razor blade or other sharp instrument. You want the cut facing upwards.



Center crown removal is a method of propagating plants, usually chimeras. Remove the first two rows of leaves in the center and allow the side shoots to grow.



Flower stems (peduncles) are used to propagate chimeras and some multicolors and fantasies. Pick a flower stem that has two healthy leaves attached. Cut off the blooms, then cut the peduncle to about a one inch length.

Reprinted from the CA Council News

(Vigorous Violets continued from page 42)

formula (20-20-20) had the greatest total increase in leaf span diameter: 30.0 cm. The plantlets receiving the high proportion phosphorus (10-60-10) formula grew the most leaves: 49. Three nutritive agents were consistently in first or second place in more than one of the categories being measured for total increase. They were high proportion nitrogen (30-10-10), high proportion phosphorus (10-60-10), and thiamine (50 mg.). Thiamine and nitrogen performed similarly in this experiment. Both were close in rank in all categories.

The high proportion nitrogen balanced fertilizer was not the sole nutritive agent to produce visual evidence of healthy crown and foliar growth. Each of the top nutritive agents consistently contributed to one or more aspects of vigorous plantlet growth. This researcher believes that the inherent vigor of each plantlet had an initial effect on growth regardless of which nutritive agent was given. The fact that the parent leaves remained attached to the plantlets throughout the experiment may explain why the control group given only water did well initially. These plantlets were getting nourishment from their parent. After the potting medium's nutrients were used up, supplementary fertilizers were necessary in order for the plantlets to survive. A regular feeding schedule is an important factor in stimulating and maintaining normal growth, preparing the way for a healthy mature plant.

Selected Bibliography

Bartholomew, Pauline. Growing to Show: How to Grow Prize winning African Violets. Oxnard, California: AV Enterprises Press, 1990.

Clements, Tony. African Violets. London, England: David & Charles Publishers, 1988.

Coulson, Ruth. Growing African Violets and Some Other Flowering House Plants. Kenthurst, NSW, Australia: Kangaroo Press, 1995.

Elbert, Virginie F. and George A. The Miracle Houseplants. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1984.

Free, Montague. All About African Violets: The Complete Guide to Success with Saintpaulias. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1979.

Hill, Joan and Gwen Goodship. African Violets: The Complete Guide. Wiltshire, England: The Crowood Press, Ltd., 1995.

How to Grow Beautiful African Violets. Beaumont, Texas: The African Violet Society of America, Inc., 1990.

Johnson, Adelle, "Feeding African Violets," African Violet Magazine. (January—February 1996), 39.

Robey, Melvin J. African Violets. Queens of the Indoor Gardening Kingdom. New York: A.S. Barnes & Company, Inc., 1980.

Stork, Kent and Joyce Stork. "The Art of Fertilizing ... Just Enough," African Violet Magazine. (November-December 1997),

The Joy of Growing African Violets

by Anne Tinari



Anne Tinari

We must never forget the general public and young people who are being indoctrinated and introduced to the joy of growing African violets.

Thus, I gave the following lecture at the Philadelphia Flower Show this spring using live demonstration to our overwhelming captive audience.

The propagation of African violets is fascinating, simple and easy; even a small child can achieve success. To see a new little plantlet form at the base of a cut leaf is a rewarding task.

A few easy steps can assure satisfactory results.

Remove a good firm leaf with a clean break from your African violet plant. Never choose the center leaves as they are the heart of the plant, or the lower outer leaves that lack vigor. Instead, a sturdy, firm mature leaf is most suitable.

Cut the petiole, or stem, about 1" to 1 1/2", dip the cut end lightly in a rooting hormone to encourage quick, even growth. Place the cutting in a rooting medium that has been sterilized. We prefer a mixture of half builder's sand and half fine vermiculite, though other mixtures can be used such as perlite, peat moss or sphagnum moss.

Insert the cutting in the prepared rooting medium about 1/2", enough to hold the leaf firmly. Press rooting medium securely around the leaf cutting. Leaves can also be rooted in water, but they produce very fragile, fine roots in comparison to the above methods.

When the tiny leaves are about an inch high at the base of the Mother leaf (in about 2 to 6 weeks) they are ready to be lifted gently into their individual 2" to 2 1/4" pots using prepared African violet soil. Vigorous young plants are formed by the third or fourth month. Don't be too hasty to remove the Mother leaf as it supplies chlorophyll that nourishes the new, tender growth of the young plantlets.

If plants have developed several crowns and are 3" to 5" high they can be gently separated, leaving as much fibrous root as possible on each plantlet and put each separation back into a 2" to 2 1/4" pot.

Do not expect miracles, but concentrate on a good vigorous single crown plant. Even in the greenhouse, with ideal conditions for growth, it takes approximately nine months to a year to produce a flowering plant from a leaf cutting.

Environment affects African violets to a great degree and there are a few basic cultural guidelines one should follow in growing African violets and producing healthy flowering plants. Lighting is very important. Sufficient light is needed but avoid direct burning sunlight. In the winter months south and east windows are most suitable and for the hot summer months north and west.

An alternative way for growing is artificial light, which is very beneficial. Fluorescent lights are best so the light is dispersed and lights should be on 12 to 14 hours a day with eight hours of complete darkness.

Potting and soil are important factors. African violets are very shallow rooted, thus squatty pots are best and growth is in better proportion. This is a semi-tropical plant, thus we find the plastic pots are most suitable as they are warmer and do not collect salts that damage stems. They are inexpensive and easily cleaned.

Soil should be light and airy, allowing fibrous roots to penetrate. It should be pasteurized to destroy most of the harmful bacteria. We find a soil pH of about 6.4, which is slightly acid, to be most suitable.



Anne Tinari and Lil Ager

While watering is also very important, there is a tendency to over water. Plants should always be slightly moist to the touch and receive only the amount of water, preferably warm, they can use at one time.

The size of the pot and the texture of the soil will determine how often plants will need watering. Avoid getting water on the foliage, especially if grown in natural light, as water on the foliage along with bright sunlight can cause spotting of the leaves, especially if there is a ten degree temperature variation.

Feeding also can be a great advantage in keeping plants in good growing condition. As the plant is watered many of the nutrients are leached out of the soil, so by using a diluted plant food this can be replenished. Food such as Peters or the popular well-balanced Optimara violet food can be used at every watering if used in a diluted form - 1/4 tsp to a gallon of warm water. This can help plants to maintain an even growth. Never feed plants when they are excessively dry.

Proper humidity of about 40% promotes floriferous, larger blossoms. Plants prefer a fresh buoyant atmosphere and a moderate even temperature of 70 to 75 degrees for best performance. Provide good ventilation and keep plants

from direct drafts and cold window sills when low temperatures are prevalent.

You may wish to initiate a preventative spraying program with a suitable insecticide to keep plants free of pests. We find a spray used once a month can help keep your collection in a healthy growing condition.

With the thousands of beautiful cultivars ranging from colors of pure white, all shades of pink, purple, lavender and burgundy plus the two-tone flowering types, one can choose those they most prefer. Foliage, too, has become most interesting over the past 50 years in which hybridizing has been done by Americans.

Leaves can be plain, serrated, wavy or variegated and even the trailer types are fascinating. Miniatures are very interesting and of course the microminis are preferred by many who do not have space to grow the larger types.

No matter if you grow one, a hundred or a greenhouse full, African violets are known as America's #1 house plant for beauty and performance.

*Happy violeting,
ANNE TINARI*



Violets Are Meant To Be Enjoyed

by Sarah McGaha • Cumming, GA

Yes, we all enjoy seeing our violets in bloom on the windowsill or under our lights, but what about in other settings? What about a decorative container or basket on a coffee table? The plant can be changed as needed and put back under the lights to renew it's blooming cycle. We all enjoy a beautiful dining table. In spring, a table just cries out for violets (I'm lucky enough to have violet china). Instead of just the usual plant in the center of the table, try variety. Use stemware of different heights, put a miniature in each group in the center of the table or at one end of a buffet. Another way is to use very small goblets or brandy snifters with a miniature at each place. A nice touch would be to let each guest carry theirs home.

In the kitchen, hang a three-tiered hanging wire basket near the window and put pots of violets in each tier. Place moss around pots to keep them from falling out of baskets. A nice touch for the bedroom, especially the guest bedroom, is a violet in a pretty milk glass bowl or whatever matches your decor.

When the weather is warm, fill a rustic basket with Episcias and violets, and place at the front entrance to greet people as they come to visit.

We all know the pleasure that a violet brings to someone in the hospital or nursing home, but take a little more time, fill a basket with plants of ruffled lettuce (or whatever you like) and place the violet in the center. Gives a whole new look. In the summer when the fireplace is not in use, put books, bricks or something to give different heights, and stagger Episcias, ferns, and violets.

Do you use a recreation vehicle to make trips? I always have some violets in a basket on the table. It gets a lot of attention if you put it outside on a shaded table. You would be surprised how many people notice and comment on them.

For a long time, until I had covered everyone involved, I sent a card with an I.O.U. enclosed to anyone in our Sunday School class. They could bring it any time and pick out the plant they wanted.

Now that we have worked so hard to share our plants, isn't it great to go back to the basement and see them in their usual setting?

*Reprinted with permission from
The Dixie News Publication of the Dixie AVS*



HAPPY NEW YEAR AFFILIATES

by Bev Promersberger • Monument, CO

It's a new year and time to make your New Year's resolutions. Why not make one as an affiliate, one that can benefit your affiliate and AVSA, and one that you can keep? Make a goal to get more AVSA members. We've been discussing ways to attract new members. The last column specialized in the use of the AVSA web site to attract visitors and new members to the affiliates.

Now, let's look to AVSA. Did you know that each year there is an award given to the affiliate that gets the most new AVSA members in one calendar year? The award of \$50 is donated by Frank and Anne Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses in Huntington Valley, PA. Since the award is given for new members in a calendar year, January through December, it is time to start working on those new members for 1999. Not only does the winning affiliate receive the \$50 award, it also receives a rebate of \$1 for each member from AVSA.

Two years ago, our affiliate, Rocky Mountain African Violet Council, won the award with 54 new members, totaling \$104 into our treasury. Last year our affiliate won the award with 26 new members, totaling \$76 into the treasury. The addition to the treasury was great, but the most important part was so many new members sharing AVSA and their love of the African violet with others.

How does it work? Whenever your affiliate is responsible for a new club member, friend or family member joining AVSA, make sure someone keeps an accurate record of the name and address.

Our AVSA Representative was responsible for this record. After the end of the year and before the end of January of the following year, a list of all the new members should be sent to the AVSA Awards chairman. In order to qualify, an affiliate must have been responsible for a minimum of 25 new AVSA members. Make sure that all new members register with the name of your affiliate on the form so that the office has an accurate record for your affiliate rebate.

The greatest number of new members were received at our annual spring shows and sale and our fall sales. The following are a few tips that should help:

1. Make it attractive

An attractive display in addition to special exhibits to attract visitors.



2. Make it pleasant

A friendly greeter who is eager to share information about AVSA. I always asked the following questions:

- (1) Are you a member of AVSA?
- (2) Do you know what AVSA means?
- (3) Share the information about AVSA and the magazine.

3. Make it tempting

Make it too good to pass up. Have some "goodies" available to encourage the immediate desire to join. In order to interest visitors to join immediately, I had several items available to accompany new memberships; back issues of the AVM (ordered from the AVSA Office for the cost of postage), free samples of donated fertilizer, and starter plants donated by club members. Be creative - maybe your members have special hobbies that they would be willing to share.

4. Make it immediate

It's easier for the visitors to take a few minutes to fill out an application attached to the culture folder "right now" than to take it home and set it aside, maybe later remembering to mail it in.

5. **Make it easy**

We even collected the checks and sent them in with the applications. Our AVSA representative made a list of the new members (a copy for the president, one to keep for his/her record) and sent it in with the applications and checks. This made it easy for the new member as well as for the AVSA Representative to keep an accurate list for the award application the following January.

6. **Make it convenient**

We found that it's better to have the table near the front of the show/sales room. The visitors pass it coming in and again going out.

7. **Make it their decision**

If there seems to be any hesitancy on the visitor's part, suggest that they enjoy the show and if they decide they want to take advantage of the special offer, ask them to stop by on their way out. Many do.

I've been a member of several affiliates through the years because of all the moving our family has enjoyed. No other affiliate has made the extra effort to get new members. And none have been as successful either. I challenge all affiliates to try this method or any other in an attempt to get more members than ever before during this calendar year. Those new

AVSA members might also become new affiliate members.

The following are a few other suggestions for reaching new members for AVSA. "Five Minutes With AVSA," another project for your AVSA Representative. Five minutes reading one, or parts of more than one, article from the AVM can show how valuable a membership can be to one of your AVSA members. How about a raffle at your show for an AVSA membership? It could be open to members and visitors. A visitor who wins the AVSA membership could very well become your next local affiliate member as well. Encourage members to give AVSA subscriptions as gifts, Christmas, birthday, Mothers' Day. Make sure that these gifts are reported to your AVSA Representative, or whom ever is responsible, with the names and addresses so that the affiliate can get credit toward the affiliate rebate and the AVSA Membership Award.

Don't forget to encourage all your local affiliate members to join AVSA. Some affiliates even require their members to be AVSA members. The dues include membership in both. This works well for some affiliates, but for some, the required cost of both might turn some potential club members away. Each affiliate must make their own decision as to which benefits them the most.

Happy New Year and Happy New Members!



GROW THE BEST AND LEAVE THE REST

By Steve Covolo • Chicago, IL

Every violet seedling that is hybridized has it's own personal needs. The key for successful violet husbandry is being able to meet the needs of each plant. This may seem easy, but why does one cultivar grow great for you while the plant sitting next to it looks like a sick child? The answer is simple – you've met the needs of one and not the other.

A little trick I use in trying to grow good violets is to shop and compare the cultivars. For example, I enjoy the so-called "red" violets. I've not had the best of luck in growing them so what I do is to make a list of the red cultivars I like.

Next, I obtain starter plants of each cultivar from the list. Red cultivars on my list that I have chosen have been 'Cinnamon Ruffles', 'Ceremonial Dance', 'Chorale', 'Powwow', 'Arapahoe' and 'Tomahawk'. To compare, I now grow each cultivar to find out which grows the best for me. The violets that don't meet my standards are removed from the collection.

This leaves me with the red cultivar which grows best for me. This little trick will allow you to have a plant who's needs are being met, not to mention a proud care giver, too.



1999 CONVENTION AWARDS HOUSTON, TEXAS

Society Awards - Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Trailer	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Semiminiature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Miniature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Species	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Vintage Violet	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

Society Awards - Design Division Amateur or Commercial

Best Design in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best Design in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Design in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design	\$25.00 & Rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Commercial Display Table	\$125.00 & Blue Rosette
2nd Best Commercial Display Table	\$100.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best Commercial Display Table	\$ 75.00 & White Rosette
4th Best Commercial Display Table	\$ 50.00 & Honorable Mention Rosette
Best African Violet on Display Tables	\$ 50.00 & Rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants	\$50.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables and Specimen Plants

Best New Cultivar	\$75.00, Blue Rosette and Plaque
2nd Best New Cultivar	\$50.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	\$25.00 & White Rosette

President's Award

Best African Violet in Show - Amateur	Hand Painted China Plate
Best Design in Show	Hand Painted China Plate

Specified Awards - Design Division

Sweepstakes in Design \$50.00	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
-------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Specified Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Display Table \$300.00	Lone Star AV Council
2nd Best Display Table \$200.00	Lone Star AV Council
3rd Best Display Table \$100.00	Lone Star AV Council
4th Best Display Table \$ 50.00	Lone Star AV Council

Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Standard Gr. Fol. Edged	\$ 25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Sweepstakes in Specimen	\$ 50.00	Lone Star AV Council

Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Division

Bertha	\$25.00	Alpha AV Society
--------	---------	------------------

Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of \$50.00, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1999 Houston Convention to the individual, club or affiliate obtaining 25 or more new members during 1998.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 1999.

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 Rosette & Coin
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette
Best African Violet in Show	Silver
Best Standard	\$ 25.00
Best Semiminiature	\$ 25.00
Best Semiminiature	\$ 25.00
Best Miniature	\$ 25.00
Best Variegated Standard	\$ 10.00
Best White Standard	\$ 25.00
Best Standard Gr. Fol. Edged	\$ 25.00 & Rosette
Best Semimini Gr. Fol. Edged	\$ 25.00 & Rosette
Best Species	\$ 50.00
Best Species	Rosette
Best Bustle Leaf or Wasp Blossom	\$ 50.00
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$ 50.00
Education Table	\$ 25.00

Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Holtkamp Greenhouses
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Mid America AV Society
St. Louis Judges Council
Louisiana Council of AV Judges
Sundowner AV Society
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Cape Cod Violetry
AV Society of Western New York
Belisle's Violet House
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Pat Richards

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Bertha	\$ 25.00
Bertha	\$ 25.00
Bertha	\$ 25.00
Everdina	\$ 10.00
Little Pro	\$ 10.00
Mickey Mouse	\$ 10.00
Petite Jewel	\$ 10.00
Precious Pink	\$ 10.00
Rob's Fuddy Duddy	\$ 25.00 & Rosette
Rodeo Country	\$ 25.00
Texas Space Dust	\$ 10.00

Fort Worth AV Society
Grace Davis
First Dallas AV Society
Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Hortense & Ray Pittman
Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Hortense & Ray Pittman
Hortense & Ray Pittman
Rob's Mini-o-lets
Spring Branch AV Club
Magic Knight AV Society

Other Awards - Amateur Division

\$100.00 donated by
AV Council of Florida Missouri Valley AV Council

\$75.00 donated by
Northstar AV Council

\$50.00 donated by
AV Study Club of Houston
Tampa AV Society

Bill & Paula Foster
Tristate AV Council

\$40.00 donated by
Magic AV Society

\$25.00 donated by
Aca's Violet Tree
Alpha AV Society
Central California AV Society
Delta Gesneriad & AV Society
The First AV Society of Dallas
First Nighter AV Society
Dolores Gibbs
Maurice & Jackie Jones
Lakes Area Violet Growers
Lakeshore AV Society
Lynn Lombard

New York State AV Society
Northern Council of California AV Societies
North Texas AV Judges Council
Ohio State AV Society
Jim & Linda Owens
Josephine Schindler
Spring Branch AV Club
The Tidewater AV Society
Unpredictables AV Society
Valley AV Society

\$20.00 donated by
Acres Creation
Nancy Amelung

Milwaukee AV Society
Richard & Anne Nicholas

\$20.00 donated by
Carolyn Burr
Gateway AV Club
Jim & Linda Golubski
Indy AV Club

Fred Roth
Martha Turner
Mary Walbrick

\$15.00 donated by
Union County Chapter AV Society

\$10.00 donated by
AV Club of Greater Kansas City
AV Society of Lower Bucks County
AV Society of Rochester
AV Society of San Francisco
Amethyst AV Club
Ronald & Janice Davidson
First AV Society of Wichita Falls, TX

Gulf AV Club
Meredith Hall
Sue Hill
Gene Loveland (*in lieu of speaker's fee*)
The Pied Pipers
Sue Ramser
Phyllis Reuss

Other
6 Moist Rite Planters donated by June Swift

Other Awards - Design Division

\$25.00 donated by
Northstar AV Council

\$10.00 donated by
Amethyst AV Club
Judith Carter

WHO SAID IT WAS EASY?

by Don Geiss • Fredric, MI

"Raising African violets is a snap," said the greenhouse manager as he handed me some leaves from plants he was trimming. It sounded easy enough as he presented the barest information on starting and care of the plants.

Little did I realize the many ins and outs of raising those delightful examples of nature's beauty. I dutifully started the leaves in water carefully suspending the stems in narrow mouthed bottles. When the white roots appeared to be well developed, the leaves were carefully planted in potting soil as carried by the local discount store. Each of the clay pots was situated in a shallow saucer so that bottom watering would be efficiently carried out.

And so a new hobby was created in the Geiss household. Some of the plants soon began to fail and rapidly showed signs of complete collapse. A neighbor who professed to know all about African violets said they had stem rot. Of course any fool could see the stems had rotted, but the question was why? The neighbor said it was probably because the plants were allowed to sit in a saucer full of water for days.

Well that was easily handled by pouring off the water that was in excess a short time after pouring it in the saucer. The rot was not then apparent on any other plants. Problem solved. The plants thrived except for the fact that there were no flowers. A friend asked if I had ever fertilized? I told him that the well water that was used should have had enough fertilizer. He said that I was wrong. So once again we overcame another problem as fertilizer was poured on the soil at each watering. The plants wilted almost overnight. My friend then analyzed the problem as being too much fertilizer. He thought perhaps just a touch every once in a while would do the trick. Yup! Raising African violets was a snap all right. But I didn't have the right touch in my snapper.

At my lowest ebb in confidence I had the good fortune to meet Ruth Funck. She lives in a nearby town and had raised and sold African violets for years. I read an ad in the local newspaper that indicated she was going out of business due to poor health. When I decided to visit her it was well after the ad appeared and so all she had left were three non-flowered plants. Needless to say my experiences with non-flowering plants did not make me enthusiastic about purchasing more.

Ruth then took over as my personal teacher and analyzed my growing techniques from the very beginning to the point where my experiments had taken me at that moment. She laughed when I told her that her remaining plants did not appeal to me because they were out of flower. She said that trying her method of growing African violets would give me enough confidence to buy only leaves with the sure knowledge that they would eventually become flowering plants.

Ruth discussed the things I had been doing right, like adjusting the watering time and reducing the amount of fertilizer. But then she hit me with a totally new plan that began with using plastic pots, a correct soil mix, measuring the amount of fertilizer and most helpful of all was the wicking method of growing African violets. Most of all she gave me confidence that I could raise beautifully flowering plants.

Soon after her lessons ended, my urge to try new things in the raising and care began. At least for me the ideas were new. If I purchased a mother plant from a major discount store a leaf or two was immediately started. It had been my past experience that the mother plants died all too easily. The type of planting medium for most of those plants did not lend themselves very well to the wick system. This of course did not imply that those plants were not properly raised, for the very showy flowers on most of them would put the lie to that idea. Rather it seemed that the plant was accustomed to its original environment and was more vulnerable in the new one. The major difficulty that seemed to create problems was the water holding medium. A heavy sphagnum moss base to the plant medium caused it to stem rot very easily.

The four inch pot seemed to contribute somehow although I have yet to figure out why. All of my plants are set in three inch pots and seldom do I use three and one half, rarely four. Perhaps there is no significance to that method but at least it supports my ego in managing the plant system.

Now when obtaining plants from a source where they are not raised on the wick system I immediately wash off all of the mix and repot in my own. Even there I find that some plants will end up as stem rot victims. When conducting a workshop I have a handout that instructs participants to

report their own plants before they attempt to use the wick system unless they are certain that the mix is suitable for wicks. The handout explains that their medium must not contain too much sphagnum moss and should contain some perlite.

I suspect that the early environment provided by larger growers facilities does have much to do with the success of raising the plants in the home. If they are raised on some system other than wick, there are times they do not adjust to it even if the medium is changed. Generally, however they do perk up and become hearty mature plants. It is interesting to note that at least one major grower has acknowledged the need for medium adjustment when using the wick system and sells medium with added perlite.

For the reader who might not be familiar with the wick system, it is a method of watering plants where a wick is inserted in the pot emerging out the bottom to a length of about three inches. The wick may be of any material that will hold water such as acrylic yarn or narrow nylon twine. Do not use cotton or wool material because it will rot. That wick is tucked into a reservoir of some type. Many people use an oleo or cottage cheese container and poke two holes in the lid on the same side but opposite each other.

The container is filled with fertilized water. I use one quarter teaspoon of Peters 12-36-14 or 15-30-15 per gallon

of water. I use a gallon milk bottle and fill the reservoirs when they get low from that. Writers have gobbled up pages discussing the types of non-soil mixes that should be used for the wick system. Ruth Funck included the mix I use in one of her early lessons. She recommended one part of each Metro Mix 360, coarse perlite and coarse vermiculite. I have used some small variations on that mix for experimental purposes, but have not noted any particular difference. Admittedly, the experiments have not been very professionally conducted and some researchers may differ with my conclusions.

The end result of all of these ups and downs is that I now do consider raising African violets as a snap although only my method gives me that confidence. Of course people have approached me after using that technique and told me of failures but somehow I always suspect that there was a slight difference that caused the plant(s) to go awry. Mostly though, people approach me with success stories and these far outnumber the failures.

In my workshops I try to remember Ruth Funck's helpful tutoring and do unto others as she did unto me. Thanks, Ruth, and may you live to be a hundred and continue to raise those precious few pet African violets that flower continuously.



TRANSPORTING PLANTS TO SHOW

by Barb Pershing
Cedar Falls, IA

Start looking for boxes that are nearly square and large enough for the diameter of your show plant to not quite cover the flat surface. Obtain a good utility knife and cut a circle just slightly smaller than the diameter of the pot in the center. Cut 1/2" slits all around the circle. This will allow your pot to fit snugly as you fit a slip pot into the box in preparation for your show entry to be inserted. Place a layer of plastic wrap and a moist paper towel in the pot. Carefully insert the pot with the plant into the first pot, leaving the plant support on until you get to the show room. It will help cushion your plant. The depth of the box should be the depth of the pot so the bottom of the pot will rest on the floor of the box when it is inserted into the hole.

For more protection, especially if it is necessary to stack things in the car, go to the grocery store and obtain large cereal or tissue boxes. (For the trip to the AVSA conven-

tion in Atlanta, we fashioned boxes with lids to fit five large plants using lots of duct tape!) The flat boxes (described above) snugly fit into the larger boxes so the plants couldn't move. The plants made the trip without a single leaf broken and they stayed moist the entire trip. Instead of paper toweling, I cut circles of acrylic matting and fit them into the lower pots.

I have to give my husband credit for this. He came up with the idea for making the boxes to fit the plants. Now the problem is where to store them! He says he has to build a storage shed just for my boxes! But he is pretty proud of the blue ribbons I brought home!

Reprinted with permission from *The 'Bloomin' Violet*,
publication of the Cedar Valley AVC, IA



Travis Violets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

Phone 1-912-574-5167 (DAY)

1-912-574-5236 (NIGHT)

FAX: 1-912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



3 FREE VIOLETS!

Order now before May 1, 1999 and get 3 FREE violets, **our choice**. Min. order for this special is **12 PLANTS**.
Order from ad or from over 300 varieties listed in our 1999 Catalog. Send \$2.00.

SOME OF THE NEW VARIETIES WE HAVE TO OFFER:

1998-99 TRAVIS' VIOLETS \$4.00
Heaven's A Calling
Hal's Bonnie Blue
Georgia Starburst
Star Eclipse
Darlin' Darlene
Georgia Sunset

Violets Aglow
Baby's Breath
Radiant Glow
1998 LYONS \$4.00
Arctic Frost
Blue Masterpiece
Blushing Fantasy
Broadway Star

Designer Print
Faded Denim
Festive Amethyst
Golden Flash
Golden Fountain
Harvest Moon
Kissing Bandit
Lying Eyes

Midnight Frolic
Moon Goddess
Nightfall
Phantom
Pink Feathers
Pirate's Gold
Rainbow Connection
Rainy Day Wishes

Royal Rage
Sergeant Pepper
Sunny Skies
The Artist
Thunder N' Lightning
Velvet Valentine
MINIS AND SEMINIS
Fireworks

Golden Eye
Irish Touch
Kiss N' Tell
Little Chatterbox
Party Flirt
Smitten Kitten
Snow Leopard

Also LYONS 1997 Varieties and other new releases. Please list several substitutes.
1998-99 Plants - \$4.00 ea.; All other \$3.00 ea. Please add \$6.00 or 20%, whichever is greater for
First Class Shipping. Shipping starts April 1st - Weather permitting.

ORDERS SHIPPED IN ORDER RECEIVED

Try our **SUPER SPECIAL** - Twelve Husky Starters - all different - All plants **OUR CHOICE**, but all different - \$38 Postpaid.
New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our new plants. Specify: Special #1-Standards;
Special #2-Semis and Minis; Special #3-Standards, Semis and Minis; Special #4-Standards, Semis, Minis and Trailers.
VISA/MasterCard/Discover CREDIT CARD - List all info on card (exp. date). Minimum credit card order is \$30.00.
Greenhouse opened 7 days a week, please call first. **COMMERCIAL MEMBER: AVSA AND DIXIE.**
Visit our web site: www.imox.com/travisviolets



Alannah's Greenhouses

"mail order specialists"

**African Violets, Gesneriads, Geraniums
& Tropical Flowering Plants**

*well established starter plants
fresh-cut leaves
growing supplies*

We take pride in our expert wrapping and packaging
*Shipping throughout Canada,
United States and Internationally*

View the catalog on-line at
www.alannahs.com

To receive a copy of the '99 catalog, please send \$2.00
(available in early February)

Box 1342
Grand Forks, BC
VOH1H0 Canada

Box 2
Danville, WA
99121 US



Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

1999 Catalog

**Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith**

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses

(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1999 Catalog
Available Feb. 15th

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738

Phone: 903-595-5137
Fax: 903-593-7956



STARRLIGHT AFRICAN VIOLET LAMPS

These lamps feed and water the violets with a mat watering system in a ceramic reservoir base. Light is provided with a circular fluorescent tube.

Simply set the violet, in its plastic pot, on the mat.

Lamp for a standard violet - \$59.00

Lamp for 3 mini/SM violets - \$65.00

Plus shipping and handling

Shades sold and shipped separately - \$16.00 ea. + S&H

Also available: Soil Scoops - \$3.00 ea. + S&H (\$1 any size order)

Discounts available on Scoops

"ShoGro" ceramic African Violet Pots with a mat watering system are available in many colors. \$10.00 + S&H

Violets From the Starrs

2602 Graupera St.

Pensacola, FL 32507

850-456-2662

e-mail: GBStarr@juno.com



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.

Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.

Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net

Phone: 334-899-7142

check us out on the web

www.graceba.net/~royh

African Violet Beauties From The Beautiful Ozarks!

THANKS for a GREAT '98! Oldies and new special varieties for '99.
Walk-ins welcome. List \$1.00. U.S. ship only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS

(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Rd.

Omaha, Arkansas 72662

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states

Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



plus the full
story of
TEXAS-STYLE
potting method

A step-by- step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**

Calif. add 6% sales tax

overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92701

SAVE \$2.05 PER BOOK!

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

We ship during winter
Safe delivery guaranteed

We sell standards too!

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....plus dozens of other favorites

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cute!; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow!; sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....plus dozens of other favorites

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.



WE HAVE SOME REAL PRIZE WINNERS FOR YOU THIS YEAR.



Just a sample!

HOBBS-GREGG - DEAN'S PEACH SHERBET - Peach/pink pansy blossom with a slight ruffle edge over shiny variegated foliage in white, green and pink. SM

PITTMAN - SANDY TR Single fuchsia blossom accented with a tiny white dot on the petals. The foliage is elongated emerald green. M. We will have 8 more new trailers and 4 more M and SM from Hortense this year.

HANCOCK - BUCKEYE CRANBERRY SWIRL - Pale cranberry stars with overlay of darker purple/darker cranberry swirls. Var. foliage of green, cream, pink. Std.

NESS - PUPPY PRINTS - Blue pansy blossom with lots of puff fantasy marking. Dark green quilted, scalloped foliage. SM

BROWNLIE - ACA'S YVON DECELLES - Semidouble/dbl blue star/white streaks, edge. The foliage is variegated medium green, pink and white, scalloped. Std.

STORK - FLOOZIE - Semidbl/dbl pink pansies edged with raspberry glitter. Dark green large growing, heavy bloomer. Std.

WILLIAMS - Suncoast Pretty Lady, Suncoast Fantasy Love, Suncoast Royal Fizz, Suncoast Pirouette, Suncoast Royal Punch

Rob's new varieties will be available in leaves only until May.
We are happy to have plants by Croteau, Sorano, Munk, Burns and more.

You will find these and many others available in our new catalog for \$1.00. Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants. Shipping is \$7.00. Over 6 will be 40 cents each. **LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE** - Current and previous releases - 24 for \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00 Current releases - 24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf. We will begin shipping March 1 in states where weather permits. When orders are shipped the customer is called with the exact date of shipment.

Make checks payable to Shirley Sanders
1034 Rayburn Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78221
210-923-1093



Violet Showcase Potting Medium

Out Potting Medium is a mixture of sifted sphagnum peat moss, coarse vermiculite, coarse perlite, horticultural charcoal, dolomite lime and trace elements. PH approximately 6.5. This soilless medium, which we mix ourselves, is used for all of our violets and other gesneriads. It is packaged dry. Moisten it thoroughly at a rate of 1 cup very hot water per quart of medium before using. Thousands of users report success with our medium growing by wicking, capillary matting, Oyama Planters, Swift's Moist Rites, and ceramic "soak thru" pots. We use it both for starter plants and full grown plants.

3 Qt. Bag: \$2.89
9 Qt. Bag: \$6.79
40 Qt. Bag: \$23.89

(Colorado addresses add 3% tax) Shipping charges: Orders totaling up to \$3.00 add \$3.50 shipping; orders totaling between \$3.01 and \$7.00, add \$5.00 shipping; orders totaling over \$7.01 add \$8.00 shipping. Orders for more than 40 qts combined total will be invoiced at prevailing catalog prices and shipping costs. **This ad expires June 15, 1999.**

Special Offer. Sample bag (1 Quart) \$4.00, shipping included. All prices and shipping charges are for U.S. addresses. Checks, Money Orders, MasterCard, VISA, and Discover Card accepted. Mail your order or phone (303) 761-1770 during shop hours: 10 AM to 5 PM [Mountain Time] Mon. or Wednesdays thru Saturdays. Closed Sundays + Tuesdays. Fax (24 hours a day) (302) 762-1808. Free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list sent with order or send for free copy. Customers outside the US please send \$2 for our catalog/list. *In business since 1969.*

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110

1-800-770-AVSA

FLORALS OF FREDERICKS

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!
STANDARDS IN 3" & 4" & LEAVES

MINIS	CHIRITAS
TRAILERS	SINNINGIAS
CHIMERAS	STREPTOCARPUS
EPISCAS	Other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS' SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
bioenergy plus/fertilizers/spray/soil
dandy pots - 2 sizes-many colors
growing pots, oyamas, hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

beautiful handpainted aprons & totes & china

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00



155 SPARTAN DR.
MAITLAND, FL. 32751
407 - 339-5533



Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

Florida Registration number: 47219602



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pot
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES

2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.
Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.
Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes



Over 600 varieties of
Minis, Trailers and various gesneriads.
Refundable with 1st order.
List available January 1999, \$2.00.

7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants
1999 Catalog - \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Best wishes for a New Year filled with
lovely violets!

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
(520) 326-3057
email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712
by appointment only

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew



Effective • Invisible • Systemic



For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733



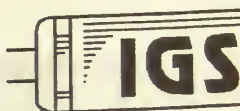
Pat's Pets

BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

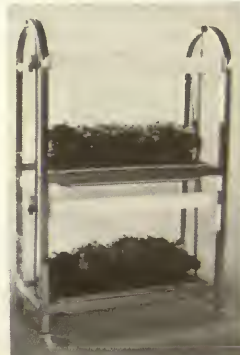
♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L x 12D





Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

prairieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America



Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). To receive 500 labels, mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label above. Orders will be submitted every time 30 are acquired.

Grow The "Miracle" Companion Plants!

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Membership includes a subscription to The Gloxinian magazine (four issues) plus a copy of "How to Know and Grow Gesneriads"

\$20.00 Single Membership

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00 in U.S. Funds.

Please send check or money order to:
AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194
USA

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022

NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
------	-------	----	----	----	-----	------	----

4" Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5" Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5" Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6" Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5" Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8" Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10" Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz/\$1.75	6 oz/\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz/\$3.00	12 oz/\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz/\$3.75	2 oz/\$4.75	4 oz/\$7.75
PETERS FERTILIZER			
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER			
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz	\$8.50	
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz	\$9.75	

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz/\$2.00	2 oz/\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:
THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE
MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687



No new list for 1999 !!!

We will continue to carry our usual large variety, but will be shipping "Our Choice" Leaves only. Watch future ads for prices

Bill & Kathryn Paauwe

45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:

ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS, TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate

Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).

AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™

NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

OUR 27TH YEAR

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	1	6	12	25	50
9"	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
		1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$4.19

2 oz. - \$5.25

4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmethierins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid

Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols

Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;

West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and

Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt.	1 pt.
3-12-6	Bloom	\$4.29	\$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$4.29	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29	
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$10.00	
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		1.75	5.00
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide			\$5.00
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths			

New Year Greetings From All The Tinari's

*A decree shall be heralded throughout the land, saluting AVSA, so proudly it stands.
53 years spreading knowledge has been its endeavor, to members who follow, may its light shine forever.*

African Violet Accessories Shipped Promptly The Year Round By UPS



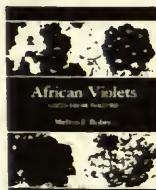
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD ORDERS
PHONE 1-215-947-0144 • FAX 1-215-947-2163



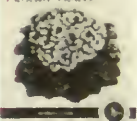
"AFRICAN VIOLETS GIFTS FROM NATURE"

by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece ... **\$45.00 ppd.**



Inset and Mite
Pests of
African Violets



"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included **\$12.00** with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed.

Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements.

An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success ... **\$16.95 postpaid**

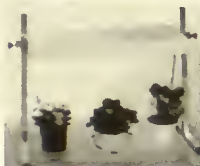


TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... **\$65.95 ppd.**

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length ... **\$75.95 ppd.**



4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.

4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish ... **\$319.00 ppd.**

4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish ... **\$339.00 ppd.**



DANDY POTS - Reservoir Wick Planters available in blue, pink, violet, and white. Made of fade resistant plastics, simple to use wick watering system, easy to fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning. **DANDY POT** ... 4" pot, 16 oz. transparent reservoir **\$5.99** each with any order, specify color desired.



PICK OF THE LITTER ... **NEW ITEM** ... by popular request - a litter of 5 stuffed cats in attractive violet motif fabric with satin violet-colored ribbon collar and violet felt eyes. Ranging from 9" to 4 1/2" tall ... **SPECIAL litter of 5 cats** ... **\$12.95 ppd**

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 0-1-2 ... **\$12.95 ppd.**
12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 3-4-5 ... **\$13.95 ppd.**
12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 6-7-8-9 ... **\$14.95 ppd.**

(First number of your zip code indicates you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT



STYLE CSW-1

Height ... 4-1/2" overall
Width ... 7" overall
Pot Size ... For 3" or 4" pots
Price ... **\$14.95 ppd**

STYLE CSW-2

Height ... 3-1/4" overall
Width ... 5-1/2" overall
Pot Size ... For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
Price ... **\$10.95 ppd**

STYLE CSW-MINI

(for miniatures & semiminiatures)

Height ... 3-1/4" overall
Width ... 4-3/4" overall
Pot Size ... Minis
Price ... **\$8.95 ppd**

STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)

NEW - especially for Microminis

Height ... 2-1/4" overall
Width ... 3-1/2" overall
Price ... **\$6.95 ppd**

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white ... **\$14.95 ppd**



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets **\$5.95 with any order.**

WINDOW PLANTERS

3 white plastic trays with frame constructed of aluminum, for use on double hung windows. 15" wide, length is adjustable from 13" to 24".
WP153 - tray size 15" x 2" x 3" **\$17.95 ppd**
WP156 - tray size 15" x 2" x 6" **\$22.95 ppd**

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... **\$3.49 each ppd.**

"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... **\$4.95 each ppd.**

SPECIAL: One of each ... **\$7.95 ppd.**

SUCKER PLUCKER



LEAF DUSTER



G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS ... **\$175.00 ppd**



DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

Tinari
GREENHOUSES

Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

QR 1
.A3149

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of the African Violet

March • April 1979

Volume 52

Number 2



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 1146 Opal St. #102, Broomfield, CO 80020.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2415 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April

Volume 52

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
Number 2

CONTENTS

MAR 04 1999

GARDEN LIBRARY

FEATURES

New Entries Program Now Available	5
Dear Editor - Carl Helm.	9
Announcement from: Violets by	
Appointment - Bill & Kathryn Paauwe.	9
Tally Time 1998 - Anna Jean Lundgren	16
Making the Most of Your Leaves - Joshua McKinney.	18
A Follow Up From Russia - Shirley Sanders	19
Regional Reviews - Pat Richards	20
AVS of Canada Convention	31
A Modern Irrigation System at	
Dave's Violets - David Harris.	40
Be Aware! - Lola Rossi.	43

Growing African Violets Deep in the	
Heart of Texas - Ron Davidson	44
Soil Mealybugs and Their Close Friends,	
Thrips and Cyclamen Mites - Pat Hancock	46
Ah, Youth! - Barbara Elkin	47
Finding New African Violet Lovers - Don Geiss	51
Planting by Moon Signs	52
Help Us Choose The Very Best - Floyd Lawson	53
Avoiding Transplant Shock in	
Your Variegated Violets - Sue Gardner	53
Advertising Guidelines - Judith Carter	55

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Esther Edwards Wells	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Office Update - Jenny Daugereau	5
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	6
AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look:	
Sonja's Violets - David Buttram	10
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky	12
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	14
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	18
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	26
Showcase (1)	28
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith.	30
Showcase (2)	32
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	34

AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin	35
Showcase (3)	36
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondon	38
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck.	42
AVSA Building and	
Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	42
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons.	42
Coming Events.	48
Registration Report - Iris Keating.	54

CONVENTION

Correction Convention Schedule	5
Attention Affiliates	19
2nd Annual AVSA Convention Auction	24

COVER

Aggie Trail
Best Trailer 1998 AVSA
National Show
Exhibited by:
Carroll Gealy
Hybridized by:
L. Ray
Miniature Trailer



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A	
Acree Creations	63
A & W Violets	58
AGGS	62
Alannah's African Violets	56
American Orchid Society	62
AV Enterprises Press	58
AVS of Canada	63
AVSA Address Labels	62
B	
Bayou Violets	57
Belisle's Violet House	63
C	
Cape Cod Violetry	59
Country Violets Greenhouses . .	58
Cryptanthus Society	63
D	
Desert Violets	60
Dyna Gro.	63
E	
Evergreen Violets	64
F	
Florals of Fredericks	58
G	
Gesneriad News	57
H	
Hattie Baggett's African Violets	64
Herbal Garden Ceramics	63
Hobby Greenhouse	63
I	
Indoor Gardening Supplies . . .	60
L	
Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses . .	64
M	
Mighty Minis	60
N	
Neptune's Harvest	57
O	
Optimara	25
P	
Pat's Patch.	64
Pat's Pets.	60
Prairie Violets.	62
R	
Rob's Mini-o-lets . . Inside Back Cover	
Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique	56
S	
Shirley's House of Violets . . .	64
ShoMe Violets	64
Sonja's AV's.	60
T	
Tanzania Wildlife Fund	62
Teas Nursery	58
Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover	
Travis' Violets	56
V	
Violets by Appointment.	58
Violet House	61
Violet Showcase	57
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses	60
W	
Watch Us Grow	57



OFFICERS:

Esther Edwards Wells, President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

Bill Foster, 1st VP
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bfoster@cyberramp.net

Lynn Lombard, 2nd VP
790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
email: lombard@oro.net

Jack Wilson, 3rd VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

L.T. Ozio, Jr., Immediate Past President
1009 Ditch Ave., Morgan City, LA 70380

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message



Dear AVSA Members:

The annual AVSA Convention is just a few weeks away. This year's convention in Houston should be an exciting week of activities for all AVSA members. With a variety of tours, the second annual AVSA Auction, the Growers Forum, and presentations on a wide range of topics, there should be something of interest for everyone. Get your registration forms in right away and start packing for the "Lone Star Violet Round-Up." Many thanks to Convention Director Ann Miller and her entire Convention Committee for the countless hours they devote to planning this annual event.



The last two years have gone so fast, it's hard to believe that my term as President of AVSA is almost over. We have worked on a large number of projects during the last two years and have made a great deal of progress in many areas. Upgrades in the computer equipment used in the AVSA office and by the Editor should benefit members for several years through betterment of services and improvements in the AVM. The AVSA web site has also been improved, but there is much more work to do. The AVSA Scholarship Program has been established and applications are now being taken for the first AVSA Scholarship. A new Entries Program is now available for computerized processing of show entries, in addition to the First Class windows-MVL software program. Several new research projects are now underway through grants from the Boyce Edens Research Fund and more proposals are expected at the Board meeting in Houston.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee for their assistance and support during the last two years. We have faced many challenges and have worked well as a team. I also want to thank all of the Directors, the Committee Chairmen and their committee members, the Office Staff, and the Editor for their work on various projects and their constant support of AVSA.

During the last eight years as an officer of AVSA, it has been my privilege to participate in several major AVSA events; the dedication of the AVSA Office Building in Beaumont, the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the African violet, the First Day Issue of the African Violet Stamp by the U.S. Postal Service, and the 50th anniversary convention of AVSA. I want to thank the members of AVSA for the opportunity to participate in these milestone events and for the opportunity to serve as your President these last two years. I look forward to many more milestones for AVSA and wish the new Officers and Directors the best in their work for AVSA.

Sincerely,

Esther Edwards Wells

Esther Edwards Wells
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

It's almost time for the 1999 AVSA Convention, "Lone Star Violet Round Up", in Houston, TX. Make your reservations and get ready for Houston; this convention offers a lot of excitement, Texas Style!

Don't forget to sign up for the tour coming to the AVSA office in Beaumont. Office Secretaries, **Tammi Gotcher** and **Joanna McCown**, will be ready to meet all of you, as will Jenny and I.

A new contributor to the AVM is **David Harris** of Springfield, MO. Read about a "Modern Irrigation System at Dave's Violets", page 40. This system will be of interest not only to commercial growers, but also to our many members with huge collections of violets at home.

Another contributor we haven't heard much from before is **Ron Davidson** of Red Oak, TX. Ron tells us how he and Janice grow their award-winning violets, "Deep in the Heart of Texas", page 44.

And for more growing information from various locations, read **Pat Richards** Regional Reviews, Part 1, page 20. Our contributors this time come from Florida, Arizona, Oregon, Illinois, and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Thanks so much, Pat, for putting this together for the AVM. Look for Part 2 in the May '99 issue.

Anna Jean Landgren has once again compiled the Tally Time list (page 16). This is a valuable tool for you to use when deciding which African violets to purchase for show plants. The list indicates which varieties received the greatest number of awards in state and local shows during 1998.

If you are responsible for submitting your club's show information to the AVM, PLEASE consult the deadlines on the AVSA Business Page (inside front cover). I try to be as flexible as possible, and know that it's often difficult to pin these dates down, but if you wait to the last minute to send your announcement there really isn't anything I can do to get it in the AVM.

Increasing our membership numbers is important to all of us. I appreciate those of you who have contacted me, or had your local newspaper call the office for PR information. I have slides, AVSA history, and other information available for all publicity opportunities. Please let us know if we can help your club get the word out about African violets.

If you are a Commercial member who has not advertised

with us before, please have a look at our Advertising Guidelines (page 55). Our Advertising Manager, **Judith Carter**, has done a terrific job, and is eager to work with you. Having an ad "camera ready" is not necessary; just let us know what you want to say, and we'll have it designed to your specifications.

I'll soon be sending letters to all of our Board Members and 1999 Nominees with information about the AVSA Sales Table at the Houston convention. Even if you are not a Board Member, please feel free to volunteer to help man the Sales Table. This is a good opportunity to make new friends.

In our Showcase section, you'll see some exquisite slides submitted by **Nelly Levine**, Rocky Mountain AV Council. These were taken at the council's spring show, and it's a pleasure to run them in the AVM. If your club has slides that are of this caliber, please submit them. Make sure that they are of single plants with a clear background, not on a table with other plants behind or beside them. Also make sure there are no name cards or ribbons near the plant, or multi-colored backgrounds.

Occasionally we get calls asking where a grower may purchase a certain plant featured in our Showcase sections. We always refer them to our Commercial Members, particularly those who advertise in this publication. With the name of the hybridizer listed (in most cases), as well as the plant size, you should be able to locate most of them. New introductions may be another problem, but if they are featured in the AVM, they should soon be available for purchase.

As always, your suggestions and ideas for improving the African Violet Magazine are always welcome. Also, don't forget to write that article you've been putting off for so long! We all like to hear about each other's growing experiences.

Happy Growing!



Office Update



by Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North
Beaumont, TX 77702
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725
(800) 770-2872

Howdy Y'all!

Are you ready to put on your cowboy hats and boots and become Texans for a week? We can't wait to see you! Make sure you get registered for AVSA's 53rd convention, "The Lone Star Violet Roundup," in Houston, Texas.

The office staff is working hard to get your AVSA home ready to meet its members. Along with **Tammi Gotcher** and our new office secretary, **Joanna McCown**, we are all looking forward to meeting you when you come to Beaumont. **John** and **Judy Carter** from Houston, Texas, have been spending much of their spare time here, painting and cleaning, helping us get ready. What would we do without these two dedicated members? Thanks again, John and Judy!

The tour to Beaumont will be on Tuesday April 6th, so come to Texas early to visit the AVSA home office. The AVS of Beaumont will be hosting the office tour and will welcome you to southeast Texas with a dose of southern hospitality and home-baked Texas treats.

Thanks to all the clubs who have returned their affiliate registration updates. **Bev Promersberger** is working hard to get all the information up on the web site. This information will help us help you to get new members. Check the web site at avsa.org and see if your club is listed. If you have not mailed the form yet, please do so now. Some of our clubs have not yet signed up for affiliate liability insurance. If you plan to have a show or sale you might need this insurance. It is not to late. If you do not have the application, call the office and we will mail you another. At such low cost per member the insurance is well worth it. Get signed up now!

As the year 2000 approaches, I'm sure your main concern with the Y2K bug is whether or not you will be receiving your African Violet Magazine. Never fear! Our new software has solved that problem and publications will go out as usual.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the convention. Y'all come!



Convention Schedule Correction:

Thursday, April 8, 1999
Classification and Entries
9am - 11:30am
12:30pm - 6pm

NEW SHOW ENTRIES PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE!

After successful testing by a number of AVSA Affiliates, the new **Entries Program**, developed for AVSA by Joe Bruns, is now available through the AVSA office for \$25. This program has been upgraded to generate the AVSA and Dixie AVS collection sheets.

Any order of the Entries Program will include the latest version of Joe's popular First Class, for which you will be

able to order upgrades periodically.

When ordering entry cards, be sure to specify that you are ordering those that work with this new system. (A limited number of the older style cards are still available, for those opting to use manual entry).

We encourage all of our clubs to purchase this program to simplify the entries process at their local shows.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?

Diagnosing the cause of an African violet problem is challenging, especially for beginning growers who haven't experienced a variety of dilemmas yet. It can be a miserable experience for advanced growers, who think they have seen just about everything. There probably isn't anything more frustrating than seeing plants changing for the worse, and not being able to figure out what to do to solve the problem!

Think Logically

Basically, any problem comes down to one of four choices: pests, fungus, virus, or cultural imperfection. The first three present fairly clear symptoms. The last is a catch-all for every growing mistake that can be made. Unfortunately, the most likely cause of the down-hill violet is improper culture or Grower's Blunders.

Where To Look

With any diagnosis, it is important to know what needs to be examined to determine the cause. There are basically three parts of violets to inspect: the flowers, the leaves, and the roots.

Obviously, you begin looking where you first see a problem. But don't forget to look at the other parts too, especially the roots! So many problems begin with an "insult" to the root structure, which reveals itself in the foliage or blossoms.

There's Something Wrong With My Flowers!

Thinking logically, look first for signs of pests. Thrips are most likely to cause flowers to fade quickly and will leave

tell-tale signs of spilled pollen from feeding. These are small but visible as they move in and out of the pollen sac. Cyclamen mites may be to blame if flowers are showing abnormal streaks of deeper color, fading quickly, and both flowers and stems have an abnormal or twisted form. Since mites cannot be seen, one must also examine the center of the plant. If the crown is stunted and graying, you should probably treat for mites. Are flowers disappearing during the night? You have roaches or some other invader that is physically eating them. If these aren't the symptoms you are seeing... it probably isn't bugs.

Following the logical pattern, look for signs of fungus. There are only a few signs of fungus that show up on flowers. The most common is powdery mildew which shows up as a white powder across the flowers. Also possible is blossom botrytis blight which is inside the flower. It causes the flower color to look washed out and gray, and will also cause the center of your violet to become stunted. Another form of botrytis will cause gray mold on the flowers. This is most commonly seen when blooming violets are shipped. If any of these are present, you should use appropriate treatments, but you must also change the growing environment to discourage the growth of fungus by lowering humidity, maintaining even temperatures, and keeping air circulating. If you don't see these symptoms...it probably isn't fungus.

Next, consider the possibility of a virus. This is generally improbable because viruses occur so rarely in plants. Plant viruses are spread by direct contact with diseased tissue or by tools that have been contaminated from that contact. They

are not airborne like cold or flu viruses in people. Those viruses which have been recognized in violets cause tiny flowers if the plants even bloom at all. This will be accompanied by a series of symptoms in the foliage at the same time, including mottled green and white leaf color and a stunted center crown (see below for more details). Since viral diseases are comparatively rare, let's move on.

Finally we must look for cultural imperfections that could cause blossoms to look "wrong". Put more simply, are you committing a Grower's Blunder? There are lots of possibilities!

Let's start with "lack of blossom". Is the humidity low? Buds can dry out before the flowers ever appear! Are your violets getting too dry in between waterings? Same thing! Tiny buds abort in dry conditions. Are you giving your plants enough light? If violet leaves are stretching upward, rather than laying flat, they probably want more light. Are you fertilizing? Violets need a regular dose of fertilizer (following directions) and seem to bloom better when that fertilizer is a bit heavy to phosphorous (the middle number). Is your pot diameter too big? Pots should be one-third the overall size of the leaves. Violets bloom best when roots are filling the pot (often called potbound). Do you have good healthy roots? Good roots lead to good blooming. Have you repotted in the last year? Fresh soil and root stimulation can promote blooming as well. Is there any chance of a gas leak? Violets exposed to minute amounts of unburned gas fumes will stop blooming and will often show signs of stunting. Are you expecting too much? Some varieties only bloom infrequently or sparsely. Most will only keep a few buds stems in bloom at a time unless they have been grown for show.

Another complaint might be that flowers are smaller than they used to be or don't last long. Were your violets subjected to warm temperatures (over 75 degrees Fahrenheit)? Is humidity too low? Are you forgetting to fertilize? Is there a draft of dry air moving across the plants? All of these can cause flowers to become small.

Once pests and disease are eliminated as a cause, growers can concentrate on the problems in the growing environment and improve the bloom habit!

There's Something Wrong With My Leaves!

Begin logically again. First look for evidence of pests. If you see stunting of the center crown with the symptoms described above for cyclamen mite, you should treat for mites. Broad mites are also very difficult to see as they feed on the older leaves, but they will cause leaves to curl downward and to yellow. Advanced broad mite damage results in cracked and ragged leaf edges. There are a variety of pests which might be seen moving across the foliage, leaving chewed edges or streaks on leaves where feeding has occurred. You need to identify and treat for that insect (there are several possibilities including foliar thrips, roaches, and

caterpillars). If you see webbing, either in long fibers (possibly red spider) or small cottony masses (egg sacs of foliar Mealybugs) you need to treat. If you see yellowing or wilting leaves, you need to examine the roots for soil mealybugs. If you cannot find pests or symptoms matching these, then you should probably look elsewhere to solve your problem.

Next, consider if a fungus could be the trouble. White powder on the leaves would indicate powdery mildew. Wilting leaves could indicate a type of crown rot. Examine roots and especially the main stem and look for signs of rotting or deterioration. Softened brownish patches or mushy holes may be caused by bacteria often after the leaf has suffered some other sort of insult. Gray mold would indicate botrytis is present. There are several other more remote fungi groups which occasionally attack violets, and most will exhibit some form of spore production which looks fuzzy or crusty. If you identify a fungus, you must treat for it, but you must also improve the growing area so that fungus is not encouraged to grow and multiply! If there is no rotting tissue, powder or moldy fuzz present, it probably isn't a fungus.

Consideration number three: Is it a virus? Are you seeing crinkling, deformed, and/or thickened leaves? Are you seeing mottling of white or light green on leaves that are not variegated? Is this mottling very erratic in pattern? Is there stunting of the crown accompanied by brittle or deformed leaves? Are there hairless patches on the surface of leaves? Is this occurring in plants that are near one another (more likely to be fungus) or sporadically here and there (typical of viral diseases)? If you have these symptoms, plants must be destroyed and the room must be sanitized. At the very least, suspicious plants must be isolated along with sanitation methods. If you aren't seeing these symptoms...it is unlikely that you have a virus.

Almost all other leaf problems result from the growing conditions. Again there are many possible Grower's Blunders to explain problems in leaves.

Leaves that are wilting or fading sooner than average can be caused by under-watering. It can also be the result of fertilizer damage to the roots, watering with softened water (which has salt in it), or by temperature extremes.

Leaves can become spotted as a result of watering with too cold or too hot water (often appears as small yellowed rings) or because droplets of water were left on foliage after watering. These droplets can also occur as the result of condensation settling on the leaves if the air temperature were to drop suddenly. When light shines on a droplet, a spot will form. Leaves could also be spotted because of dirt or spray residue, in which case the spots may be removed with tepid water. Be sure to blot leaves dry before putting them back in light!

How about if your violet's leaves are very tight in the center? This can occur because of too much light. If you are growing under fluorescent lights, you may have the plant

too close to the light or be running the lights too long each day. It can also occur because of over-fertilizing, in which case there will often be an orange-colored crust present in the very crown. It can result from disbudding, if you are growing the plant to exhibit in a show. Violets usually grow out of this on their own. It can also develop when violets are being grown in relatively cool conditions below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. One last possibility is the presence of unburned gas fumes.

Perhaps you are seeing leaves that are reaching up or you have quite long stems (petioles) on leaves. This is usually caused by inadequate light, but can also result when the temperatures are consistently warmer than 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Possibly your leaves are pale green or yellowed instead of deep green. In this case it is reasonably the result of too much light— either too long exposure or too intense. It can also result from a lack of fertilizer. If you are applying fertilizer and still have the problem, check to be sure the fertilizer is well-balanced for African violets. If it is, you may have a pH problem that is making it difficult for your plants to absorb nutrients.

Leaves that are curling under or upward can be another concern. This is most commonly the result of cool growing conditions or of wide temperature swings during the day and night. Some nutrient deficiencies are also linked to this condition, so check fertilizer to be sure it contains trace elements needed for good growth.

What about brown edges on leaves? This is most commonly the result of fertilizer excesses, especially if your plants tend to dry out between watering. The salts in the fertilizer will damage cells whenever the cells lose moisture. This can also occur in very dry air where leaf edges are most exposed to the dry conditions. Bumps, nicks, and other injuries to the leaf will also leave a brown edge but this is normally fairly distinctive in appearance.

A few leaf changes can be the result of natural mutations or sporting. Occasionally a leaf will develop some variegation. This is not to be feared as a virus if the plant continues to grow and thrive. You may also notice that the leaf-underside of some varieties will show irregular red patches, sometimes. If the flowers are bi-color, this patching may indicate that the flowers are mutating to a solid color. If so, you would only want to propagate leaves that do not have the patches of color. Some varieties are prone to this behavior without any other problems, in which case it can be ignored.

Something's Wrong With My Roots!

Almost everybody notices that something is going wrong above the soil level before they notice what is happening below in the root zone. Many violet problems start down in the soil where they aren't detected until plants

have sustained damage. Once you discover that the roots are not white and abundant, there are a number of causes to consider.

Using our logic, begin by looking for pests. There is one primary pest to look for, and that is soil mealybug. This insect has six legs, is about the size of small grains of rice, and gray-white. It lays eggs in the soil in web sacs and feeds on roots. By the time you notice wilting leaves above there is likely to be a massive population down below. Wise growers look for them on a routine basis and treat as needed, since they are unfortunately rather common. You might also notice insects moving around on the top of the soil. These are likely to be the larvae of fungus gnats or black flies. Normally they won't destroy roots, but it is wise to treat for them. The fast-moving bugs that are found down under the pot in saucers and reservoirs are springtails which do very little damage to violets. One last pest, nematodes, is rarely seen now that growers are using soilless potting mixes rather than dirt. This worm feeds inside of roots causing a knob-like bulge in the root and listless growth of foliage. If you should see knobs or galls on roots, especially if you are using dirt in your mix, dispose of the plants and change your soil mix.

Fungus can thrive in the moist conditions of the rootball. Some of the fungus in soil is working beneficially by breaking down nutrients into a usable form for plants. This is occasionally visible on the soil surface as a white billowy mold. If it bothers you, water into the top of the soil and it will disappear for the time being. Far more dangerous are the water molds that bring about crown rot. These fungi attack the root system and the main stem. The rotten odor in the soil is a sure sign. The main stem may become brown and mushy on the outside, brown and dry on the inside (a hollow or brown core that can be seen when sections are cut away), or may dry up, depending on which fungus is present. Spores are frequently present but will not become deadly unless there is an overabundance of water. Plants left standing with the roots in water, and plants grown in heavy wet soil mixes are very vulnerable to this fungus. Often, affected plants must be destroyed. It is very important to improve the growing conditions to slow this infection.

Most other root problems are caused by Grower's Blunders. Roots deteriorate when the soil is too heavy, lacking air spaces for roots to grow into. Too much water creates a similar situation. Some pots are poorly designed and do not allow air to flow under the pot. Adding air to the soil will greatly improve the health and vigor of the roots! Temperature fluctuations around the roots of more than ten degrees Fahrenheit (caused either by air temperature changes or applied water) can cause roots to die. Fertilizer salts can accumulate in the soil and damage roots. This can be remedied by leaching the soil with copious amounts of clear water.

It's Often Grower's Blunders

Pests and disease can cause our violets to suffer, but in many cases, the grower is the one to blame! When we blunder and our horticultural perfection is quite a bit less than perfect, our violets can develop some mystifying symptoms.

To be fair, it can be very hard to achieve perfection! For example: the solution for getting more flowers may be to increase humidity, but the solution to curb fungus disease is to decrease humidity. Another example: we recommend that you grow under fluorescent lights and maintain even temperatures for optimum growth. However, when you grow under fluorescent lights, they raise the temperature during the hours that they are on and allow temperatures

to drop when they are off. A third example: fertilizer formulations and water supplies can change subtly without warning, altering the chemistry of our growing. And finally there are all the changes in weather and our personal lives that keep pitching us off balance.

The worst solution is to get out our spray bottles of chemicals and treat for something that isn't there. Pests and fungi behave in fairly predictable ways. If you think logically, you should be able to tell when to spray, when to throw, and when to take a hard look at the growing environment. There's no need to panic.

Eliminate the possibility of pests; eliminate the possibility of diseases; review the basics of growing. We bet you'll get the problem solved!

Dear Editor, I would like to tell you about my experience with soil mealybugs and how two of your advertisers helped me out!

I am 92 1/2 years old and have been raising violets for 25 years. I am one of the three people who started the Wedgewood AV Club. Our club had 25 members, all men.

I started again from scratch after moving to Florida, and have used my church as an outlet for my plants. I have a 2 shelf cart in Friendship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church and sell my plants for \$4 each. All the money I raise goes to the Tree of Life Day Care Center.

In the summer of 1997 I had an invasion of soil mealybugs! I worked six months to get rid of them and ended up sending every one of them into the trash, along with my plants!

I went to work on my stand with Clorox® water, cleaning my trays, blankets, lights, walls, curtains - everything!

I didn't try to raise any plants for 4 months, then I ordered 38 leaves from Shirley's House of Violets in San Antonio, TX, and told them I was 92 years old. When I received my leaves from Shirley, they were packed beautifully, and instead of 38, there were 76 leaves! There was also a note from Shirley saying that she hopes when she's my age she's still ordering plants!

I also had ordered 10 plants from Rob's Mini-o-lets, Naples, NY, and of course, told him how old I was, too. I soon received a package from Rob, packed just as beautifully, and instead of 10 plants, I counted 22! No note, but I am sure they thought that at my age, I needed a few extra! Every single plant from Rob's grew beautifully, and of the 76 leaves I had, only a few did not take.

Once again, I am bringing plants to the church and these are even more lovely than the old ones!

So, thanks so much, Shirley Sanders and Ralph Robinson!

Carl Helm - Bradenton, FL

Announcement from: Violets by Appointment

Bill & Kathryn Paaue • Sayville, NY

The time is approaching when many people are eagerly expecting the release of our annual list.

As this was intended in the beginning to be a retirement project, after 12 years of moderate success, we have finally decided to slow down our hectic pace. Therefore, instead of producing a catalogue, we will be offering "Our Choice" assortments of leaves (with suggestions) for the next couple of years. We will continue to carry most of the new Lyons, Kent's, and Rebel's varieties. Please watch our ads in this magazine for the "Our Choice" prices.

In the past, we have maintained a full-sized plant of all of the 800+ varieties that we have offered. With this new plan, we will be able to have some (about half) of our varieties in the

propagation phase.

Our family members have been willing to come in to water our plants, allowing us to go to conventions and to make brief visits to Georgia (that's where the grandchildren are!), but we don't think it's fair to ask them to maintain our plants while we go out and play. None of our neighbors have expressed an interest in watering our houseplants, either!

For those of you who have enjoyed using our soil mix, we will continue to offer it as in the past.

Questions? Please use our email address to ensure a prompt reply <violetsbyappointment@juno.com>

Thank you for all your kind and faithful patronage over the years!



A Closer Look



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

SONJA'S VIOLETS

My home in Independence, Missouri is located equidistantly from two Omahas. About two hundred miles to the northwest is the larger, better known, Omaha, Nebraska, site of next year's AVSA national convention. Some two hundred miles to the southeast is tiny Omaha, Arkansas, home of Sonja's Violets.

After a couple of missed turns and a telephone call (I hate asking for directions), my wife and I arrived at the home of Sonja Holm, located in the hardwood forests of the Ozark mountains of northern Arkansas.

From a geological viewpoint, the Ozark mountains are some of the oldest in the world, and extend from eastern Illinois westward through southern Missouri and northern Arkansas into eastern Oklahoma. The dense timber and a curving, hilly dirt road leading to her home belied the fact that we were only twenty-one miles from Branson, Missouri, one of the top entertainment centers in the nation.

Sonja warmly greeted us at her front door on that cold, rainy January morning. Once inside, the warmth and aroma from two wood-burning stoves made us feel comfortable immediately and we began the interview.

Originally from the Turlock, California area, Sonja moved to a twenty-acre farm in Arkansas twenty-two years ago. Seven years later she built her home, actually doing most of the design and work herself. Native timber was used in some of the construction. As I entered her home and glanced around, I noticed that, like most grandmothers, Sonja proudly displays pictures of her five grown



*Sonja Holms (l) shows Beth Buttram
a sport of 'Ness' Coral Dreams'.*

children and their spouses, twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Also, on the walls are several beautiful oil paintings Sonja has created over the years.

Beth and I were impressed with the neat, orderly house that was absolutely immaculate. The beige carpet in the plant room was spotless, which is quite a feat when growing hundreds of African violets!

Sonja's incursion into the world of African violets began when family members gave her some plants a few years ago. The idea of selling plants and leaves came about



Sonja's orderly plant room is home to several hundred African violets.

in 1991, when Sonja began looking for a way to supplement her income.

With the experience of building her house, designing and building growing benches was a snap. The sturdy benches are well constructed, testifying to this grower's "can-do" ability. Four-foot fluorescent fixtures using cool white tubes light the starter leaves and plants.

When we were there in January, Sonja was working on her 1999 list, which will feature many new varieties and several older favorites. At the end of this shipping season Sonja plans to cut her list back by one-half to allow her more time to paint, write and study, and do yard work. The 1999 list will offer Dyna-Gro and Neptune's Harvest because of Sonja's excellent results with them. Look for Sonja's ad in this magazine for information on ordering her list.

A combination of wicking and matting is used by this grower. Wicking works well on all 4" pots and capillary

matting has proven very successful for the smaller plants.

When asked about her favorite hybridizer, she smiled and said, "I like them all. I especially like the plants with large blossoms." Sonja's stock of about 550 varieties contains a balance of today's best hybridizers.



Sonja displays one of her oil paintings in front of the growing benches she designed and built.

Sonja starts her leaves in a mixture of peat moss, vermiculite and perlite. She was not definite on the proportions used, but did indicate that she used enough peat moss to "give body" to the mix. Using this soilless mix, watering with the fertilizer, Sturdy, and fish emulsion gives the plants the nutrition they need.

To control any potential insect problems, Sonja likes to use a 32 oz. spray bottle filled with water to which 1/2 teaspoon of Ivory dishwashing liquid has been added. This spray is safe for humans and plants, and is effective against insects.

I wondered how practical it is to conduct a mail order business (walk-in customers are also welcome) in such a remote area. No problem, for United Parcel Service and the U.S. Postal Service pick up and deliver to Sonja's door daily. Sonja also invites friends to her annual open house.

The ancient Ozarks offer scenic vistas, sparkling clear streams, spectacular caves and rock formations. A closer look reveals gullies, dense forest and a lonely isolation from neighbors. It can be inhospitable and difficult to live there, but call it moxie, pluck, mettle or chutzpa, there are those individuals who have what it takes to tame the wilderness. Sonja Holm is one of those people: an artist, researcher and writer, songwriter, poet, and gardener, a true Renaissance woman.



Starter plants grown for sale.

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601
email dot3joe@earthlink.net

In order to make this column more easily accessible to new growers and anyone that has a "New to them," problem, I'm including my e-mail address: dot3joe@earthlink.net Please include as much information about the problem as possible to facilitate an evaluation of the trouble. A number of questions have been sent to me that deal with salt content in the water and it's effect on African violets. While I would like to offer assistance, this particular subject is so complex that it should be dealt with by experts. Even when a cure is available, I fear the cost of any remedy would be prohibitive. Desalinization plants have been under consideration for many years in areas with salt problems, however the plants in operation are only somewhat successful due to cost effectiveness. If there is an expert willing to offer some suggestions or advice I would appreciate hearing from you. I know there are many groups that would be most appreciative of any information as to the toxic limits for African violets, as well as suggestions in dealing with high salt contents that cause growing problems but are less than lethal.

QUESTION: *I grow in self-watering ceramic pots which I make. I seem to have a dark colored mite that I cannot get rid of that I never see on the plants, however I see them scooting across the water of my reservoirs and also on the outside of the pots. I spray every 7 to 10 days with Schultz insect spray.*

ANSWER: You are describing springtails which under different growing conditions (not using an ornamental pot) would be fairly easily dealt with since they are only interested in the decayed matter in your soil. Springtails do little damage, if any, but thrive in the same conditions as African violets. Your problem stems from the decorative pots being made unsightly by their presence. You might try keeping a coating of soapy water on the outer pot as the springtails are supposed to dislike this product. Another thing that may

help is spraying the surfaces (but not those that affect any of the growing mediums such as water or soil) of your self watering pots with Insecticidal Soap before planting.

QUESTION: *I live in Hong Kong and thought when the weather became cool, around 68 degrees, my African violets would grow well. Instead they have almost all died of root or crown rot. Even the leaves I removed to start new plants turned brown and died in a day or two. I do not over water and use distilled water for starting leaves.*

ANSWER: I do not have enough information to make anything but a generalized guess as to the problem. Over watering is only one factor in root rot or crown rot. It sounds like you have a soil that is very water retentive. Unfortunately you do not say what type of soil mix was used or what style of growing (wick, top watering, or Texas style) was being employed. All of these subjects would have a bearing on what took place. The fact that your whole collection was lost, except for three and those are not producing new leaves in the center, makes me think you have some major problem in the soil, growing style or general care. The leaves you put down from those plants were, in all probability, infected with the pathogen which destroyed the plants and their chance for producing plantlets was extremely unlikely. Since you take the AVM look for all these subjects: soil mix, growing style, fertilizing, watering and growing under lights, and see if you can spot the area in which your growing program differs from the articles. It would be very helpful to see what you are doing but since this isn't possible this is the next best thing.

QUESTION: *How do you know when to repot?*

ANSWER: With so many categories of plant size it is hard to generalize so that one formula fits all. Starting with standard size plants, young plantlets are potted as soon as

the foliage is three times the size of the solo cup (My pot of choice for standards when I divide from the mother leaf). If this is a large leafed plant and the growth is quite rapid I would then repot into a 4" (or 3 1/2" pot if only medium sized) as I'm interested in bringing the plant to maturity quickly. When the plant is once again three times the size of the pot, the large standard goes into a 6" pot and medium size plants into a 5" pot. These steps might only take three months or it might be as long as six months, depending on the growth tendencies of the particular variety. Standards are then repotted every six months, remaining in a 6" pot.

With miniature and semiminatures, I transplant them into 2" pots at the time of division from the mother leaf. Miniatures are almost always transplanted into another 2" or 2 1/8" pot at each repotting. Semiminatures might end up in a 2 1/2" pot if they seem to grow best in that size but most are grown in 2 1/8" or 2 1/4" pots. The pot size is a bit of trial and error, but also determined by discussions with other growers as to their experience with a particular variety. Miniature and semiminatures are repotted every four months if at all possible. All plants are repotted 6 months before a show in which I intend to exhibit.

QUESTION: *I have an infestation of mealybugs on my African violets and don't know what to do except daub them with alcohol. When I daub the fuzzy ones with alcohol there is a hard brown scaly substance underneath. What is a mealybug? Is it the brown scaly substance or the white fuzzy one? I have a cat that occasionally chews on the plants so I need a spray that would not be harmful to humans or animals.*

ANSWER: From the description of the insects (you seem to have two) they sound like foliar mealybug and scale. (My mealybug reference book is over 500 pages) First - do check and be sure there is not a plant nearby (even outside a window) such as a fern, epiphyllum, cymbidium or like plant that has an infestation of scale. Do you grow some of the plants that mealybugs favor such as begonias or *Streptocarpus*? If so, check them carefully. It's a little unusual to have either of these insect infestations on African violets. Your cat might have brought scale in on it's coat, but

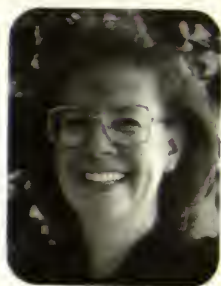
I would think it was more likely the mealybugs were the hitchhikers. However it could be that both of these insects arrived in this manner. Scale are only able to move during the juvenile stage while mealybugs can move around, but very slowly. The brown shell is the home of the adult scale and in order to get rid of this pest you will need to actually remove all of the scales and then spray with an Insecticidal soap. This could be quite a task. As the juveniles missed by the spray become adults you would need to deal with a new batch and I'm not at all sure it would be worthwhile. To deal with foliar mealybug you will need to set up a vigorous removal program, every 6 or 7 days for at least a couple of months. Be sure you are getting all of the egg sacks that look like cotton in the leaf axils. Having fought this nasty insect on begonias and *Streptocarpus*, I will warn you in advance that they will make a last ditch stand against you. Do check your roots to be sure you do not have an invasion of soil mealybugs as I've seen an infestation that was bad enough to have the soil mealybugs migrate to the crown. It is very difficult to deal with most insects when you do not wish to use the stronger insecticides.

QUESTION: *I have a small African violet on my desk at work. The main light source comes from the overhead lights and the desk lamp. It seems to be happy there, blooming several times a year. Is this unusual? Should I use a different ratio of fertilizer than 1/8 tsp. per gallon of water?*

ANSWER: A number of people I know grow their African violets at work where they can enjoy them a greater part of the time considering this is where they spend most of their day. All of the smaller types, miniatures, semiminatures, including both small size trailers, lend themselves to this growing environment and some make it to a show and are winners as well. Since most desks are limiting as to area, the ratio of 1/8 to a gallon should work well as the plant is very likely receiving its share of carbon dioxide when you breathe and thereby gets a nice even fertilizing on a regular basis in addition to what you feed when you water.

Named of columnist replying is in bold print.

1-800-770-AVSA



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

My hybridizing goal is to produce a small, variegated leaf, honey or banana smelling, double, yellow-blossomed *Streptocarpus*. I have the means, but it may take a lifetime of hybridizing. First, though, let's discuss the *Streptocarpus*.

Streptocarpus culture will vary depending on where they are grown. They are old world gesneriads from Africa. In milder climates they can be grown outdoors in dappled sunshine, but need to be protected from extreme heat. I've seen wonderful use of them as year-round bedding plants.

Most of us grow them indoors under tube light or in bright windows. Generally they like a soilless mix that is not too wet since their centers can rot easily, damaging newly forming leaves. If you insist on wick watering, the mix must be very light. Many growers have problems with yellowing leaves. I alternate a 30-10-10 orchid fertilizer, without urea, with other non-urea fertilizers with lots of trace minerals such as Dyna-Gro. I use anywhere from 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon per gallon. If the pH of your mix is neutral or slightly acid, then your leaves should be a healthy green color. Repot very carefully having the center leaves slightly above the soil line to prevent rotting. Cut off those old leaves after they've finished blooming, which is after the production of about six bloom stalks.

Leave about 1" of stem to allow the plant to produce a new leaf from that base.

Streps can be plagued by powdery mildew if circulation in your room is less than ideal or in the fall when the night time temperatures drop significantly. Some spray Lysol just so the mist delicately falls down on the leaves. Phyton 27 is an excellent product if you have a nasty infection of mildew.

Consult the commercial growers selling this prod-

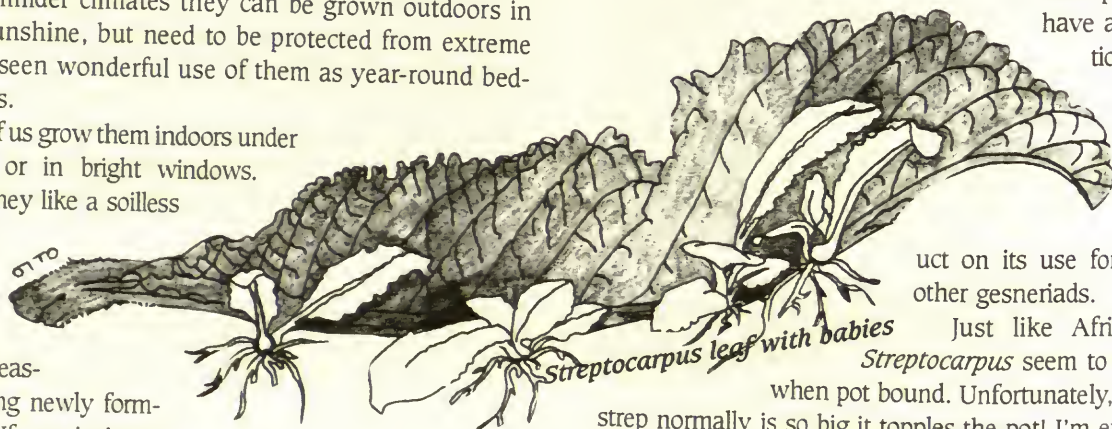
uct on its use for violets and other gesneriads.

Just like African violets, *Streptocarpus* seem to bloom better when pot bound. Unfortunately, a pot-bound strep normally is so big it topples the pot! I'm experimenting using pan pots, since those aren't easily tipped over.

Yes, there are a few variegated streps, particularly in Great Britain, but not commercially available. I have one, but it's not vigorous and hasn't bloomed. In my experience, babies propagated from variegated leaves are plain green.

Unifoliolate

Most unifoliate species have a single leaf. If you are lucky to see one in a show in full bloom, the plant may be well over 2 years old. Some unifoliate have fragrant blossoms. These include *Streptocarpus vandeleurii*



(smoky smell), *S. eylesii* (bananas), *S. candidus* (honey). There's a project in the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association to propagate fragrant streps due to the generosity of John Boggan of the Smithsonian Greenhouses. He offered to distribute fresh pollen from his heavily blooming *S. van-deleurii*. I'm participating in that project.

In the wild, strep leaves grow from the base and in the fall the distant end dies back until a distinct line forms which is called an "abscission line." That distant end dries up and falls off. Sometimes this happens during a severe drought. It's a way for the plant to stay alive by sacrificing perhaps half its leaf. Flowering in some species is seasonal.

Caulescent/stemmed

These are known as *Streptocarpella*, a subgenus of *Streptocarpus*. Producing many branches, streptocarpellas form a wonderful hanging basket and bloom heavily in cooler temperatures in the spring and fall. There are studies hinting a close relationship of this subgenus to *Saintpaulia* with some hybridizers trying to cross the two. Cutting tips will make streptocarpellas bushier. Those tips easily root in a light mix.

Plurifoliate

Most *Streptocarpus* plants are plurifoliate - displaying many leaves. Some have a rosette form like African violets. The theory is that the smaller the blossom, the more flowers you'll have per stem. So a large-blossomed plant won't have as many flowers, but it'll still look spectacular!

Show Time

Yes, it's perfectly okay to trim the edges of strep leaves. Try to match the natural edge of the other leaves and don't cut straight across. You don't want it to look obvious that you trimmed your plant! (Shhh, secret: to prevent browning of those cut edges, I snap off a violet leaf and squeeze the stem juice onto the strep's new edge!)

Propagation by Leaf

In the drawing on the previous page, Norah Otto has illustrated a strep leaf with babies. I cut the leaf longitudinally and remove the mid-rib. I plant each of the half-leaves, cut side down, half way to the top of that half leaf in a moist 50/50 perlite and vermiculite mix. Keep it in 100% humidity until you remove the babies. A baby will grow from each vein if you are lucky.

It's quite easy to remove that baby. It easily peels away, roots and all, from the mother. It's a good idea to plant that baby in 100% humidity in that same moist 50/50 perlite and vermiculite mix until the babies are about 2" tall. Feed continuously a fertilizer without urea at the rate of 1/8 teaspoon per gallon. Gently harden the babies to a normal room's environment after about a month. Pot each baby in its own 2 1/4" pot.

Propagation by Seed

Hybridizing streps is very easy. Remove the stamen entirely before the blossom opens by slicing the unopened blossom horizontally with a razor in order to see the stamen. A stamen is the pollen-bearing organ comprised of slender stalks that terminate in anthers or pollen sacs. Use a tiny pair of scissors to cut the stamen. The flower will continue to bloom, but of course, will be split. You don't have to do all of this if you want to chance the blossom self-fertilizing. As the blossom matures, the female organ, the pistil, begins to elongate until it is quite visible in the center of the blossom. It's best to wait until the flower is fading to fertilize the plant. When the flower is fading the pistil is most mature. On the end of the pistil is a stigma. Upon close inspection you can see the stigma has a tiny opening. That's where the pollen is placed. Find the pollen sacs on another *Streptocarpus*. Either use a tiny artist's brush or use your finger and remove pollen by separating the pollen sacs which are closed against each other. Pack the pollen on that stigma, but not so hard as to break it!

The reason for the name *Streptocarpus* is because the fruit or seed pod (carpus=fruit) is twisted (streptos). After the flower is fertilized, the twisted seed pod grows longer and longer, and will be green. When it is ripe, it turns brown and begins to untwist, spilling the seed. Pollination to ripe seed takes between 8 and 12 weeks. Plant the seed on top of a moist 50/50 vermiculite and perlite mix in 100% humidity. After 3 weeks they will begin to sprout.

Genetics

I'm in contact with several *Streptocarpus* hybridizers all over the world, primarily in Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, and Great Britain. The main hybridizers in the United States include Jonathan Ford, Sidney Sorano (Lyons Greenhouses), Michael Kartuz, Marcia Belisle (Belisle's Violet House), Ralph Robinson (Rob's Mini-o-lets) and me. Be sure to look at the commercial advertisers in the back of this magazine to see who supplies other gesneriads.

The following are my observations from years of hybridizing: Purple is a dominant color, so don't use it as a seed or pollen parent unless you want purple. Doubles are mostly dominant, but doubles don't have pollen. In doubles and semidoubles the stamen has become extra petals, hence no pollen sacs. A double can only be the seed parent. Crossing small to normal size will usually, unfortunately, result in normal to large size plants. Rosette forms appear to be dominant. Crossing with a seasonal blooming species can result in seasonal blooming plants. A yellow throat isn't a dominant characteristic. I don't know the dominance of fantasy, variegation, or fragrance....yet!

I believe *Streptocarpus* hybridizing is in its infancy right now, just like African violets were back in the 50's!

Tally Time 1998

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 1998. This year it is based on 102 reports.

Show chairs, please note, the names of winning 1999 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted. I must send my completed report to the AVM by December 1.

STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
22	4	2	Picasso M. Tremblay #6924	11	5
12	1	1	Lela Marie I. Lineberg #5668	9	1
11	0	0	Bertha B. Foster #6159	11	0
10	0	0	Ode to Beauty Cox/B. Johnson #7677	10	0
9	1	1	Marching Band K. Stork #8645	5	2
9	2	1	Mary Craig R. Nadeau #6408	3	3

SEMIMINIATURES

34	3	4	Precious Pink H. Pittman #6025	14	13
30	3	1	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	16	10
23	2	0	Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	19	2
20	1	0	Rob's Antique Rose R. Robinson #8451	13	6
17	1	1	Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	12	3

MINIATURES

9	2	0	Petite Jewel H. Pittman #7085	1	6
8	1	0	Spring Peach H. Pittman #8413	1	6

TRAILERS

11	0	0	Milky Way Trail J. Stahl #7169	2	9
9	1	0	Pixie Blue L. Lyon #2598	1	7

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

12	1	0	<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i> S 5	3	8
10	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	2	8
9	2	0	<i>Saintpaulia orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpurea</i> S 14a	3	4

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	I	II	III	IV	V
STANDARDS						
Picasso	22	0	3	1	8	1
Lela Marie	12	1	3	2	4	2
Bertha	11	2	0	1	6	2
Ode to Beauty	10	3	1	2	2	2
Marching Band	9	1	5	0	2	1
Mary Craig	9	0	3	0	6	0

SEMIMINIATURES

Precious Pink	33	4	4	9	9	7
Ness' Crinkle Blue	30	1	14	6	2	7
Irish Flirt	23	5	3	4	5	6
Rob's Antique Rose	20	2	8	4	1	5
Ness' Satin Rose	17	2	9	0	4	2

MINIATURES

Petite Jewel	9	3	1	1	1	3
Spring Peach	8	1	3	2	1	1

TRAILERS

Milky Way Trail	11	1	2	2	1	5
Pixie Blue	9	2	1	3	3	0

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	12	1	4	6	0	1
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	10	1	2	4	3	0
<i>Saintpaulia orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>	10	3	3	0	4	0

NUMBER OF WINNERS	265	33	69	56	62	45
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED	102	14	25	25	20	18

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Alberta-2, California-10, Colorado-1 and New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-3, Kansas 1, Indiana-2, Iowa-3, Minnesota-3, Missouri-6, Ohio-5 and Wisconsin-2; #III - Connecticut-2, Delaware-1, New Jersey-5, New York-9, Maine-1, Maryland-1, Ontario-3, Pennsylvania-1 and Quebec-2; #IV - Arkansas-2, Louisiana-4, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-13; #V - Alabama-1, Florida-9, Georgia-3, North Carolina-1, Tennessee-3 and Virginia-1. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning 5 or more awards within an area were: #I - none; #II - Marching Band (5), Optimara Little Aztec (6) and Sassy Shirley (5); #III - none; #IV - Barbara Ann (6), Mary Craig (6), Red Bandito (6) and Rodeo Country (5); #V - California Sunset (5); Rob's Sarsparilla (5) and Snow Squall (5).

Making the Most of Your Leaves

by Joshua McKinney • Goshen, KY

Can you hear yourself pondering this statement: "I wish that violet leaf would put up more plantlets; they never seem to produce enough to satisfy my needs!" Anyone experiencing this frustration probably has tried increasing the surface area of the petiole to coax more babies out of each leaf. Such a procedure is accomplished by making a very long cut of the petiole resembling an acute wedge. The problem with this method is that the "mother" leaf will be stressed and not strong enough to support all the "daughter" plantlets. Also, the soil depth will increase the time required for plantlets to mature. A more logical solution would be to divide the leaf into several wedges, each capable of producing a few plantlets.

This procedure insures that the energy will be equally distributed to all the plantlets. Also, the plantlets won't be crowding each other out as they mature. Such a distribution allows more plantlets to receive the light and space they need to be healthy and survive.

In order to grow, each wedge must contain the root-forming cells necessary for growth. Luckily, saintpaulias have no shortage of the cells that make phytohormones necessary for propagation. Most of these cells are located near the base of the leaf blade, where it meets the petiole. A piece of this region, called the sinus, at the bottom of each wedge will allow speedy growth. It also helps to have a piece of the main leaf vein in each segment.

Before cutting the leaf you must have the pots and soil

mix prepared. I used 2 1/4" solo cups for pots by punching three holes in each with a knife. The soil mix I used consisted of one part each of the following: peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. After filling the cups with soil mix, I moistened it by misting with distilled water.

Setting the pots aside, I went in search of the largest leaf I could find. 'Jean-Pierre Croteau' had the largest leaf size in my collection. I chose a mature leaf, but not one that looked too old or yellowing. I first removed the petiole, then I divided the leaf blade into seven sections. After cutting up the leaf, I potted each wedge in its own pot.

Lastly, I secured each "wedge" in the mix and draped plastic wrap around the cups to hold in humidity.

After a few months of growing the plantlets will be ready for separation. I had 2 or 3 plantlets per section. Most bloomed true to type. I hope you try this experiment and have as much fun as I did!

Feel free to try this with semis as well, just remember that smaller leaves should be divided into fewer sections to minimize premature death of the blade sections. Also, when cutting the leaf blade, it's important to angle the cut facing in front of the piece at a 45° angle. Even when trying to keep the cuts facing forward, I still had plantlets come up behind some segments. Though, with this method that is less of a problem due to the smaller "mother" leaf pieces.

Happy growing!

AFFILIATE UPDATE

by Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

17415 Charter Pines Drive • Monument, CO 80132 • <clubs@avsa.ora>

Haven't found an African violet club or study group near you? The following areas are interested in starting one. Maybe one is just for you.

Marion, Iowa

Contact: John Adney

2225 Northview Drive

Marion, IA 62302—5537

<johnadney@email.msn.com> <dmknych@concentric.net>

Oakland, California

Contact: Deb Knych

4031 Ardley Avenue

Oakland, CA 94602

a local club. Or, maybe you would like to start one yourself. We have a starter packet and advice that stays with you until you are established. You can request this packet or any other information by writing or e-mailing me at the addresses listed at the beginning of this column.

Congratulations and welcome to the following affiliates:

Fox Valley African Violet Society

President: Dixie Williams

3211 White Eagle Drive

Naperville, IL 60564-4604

The Bloomin' Violets

President: Jo Kirby

925 North 13th Street

Bismarck, ND 58501-4219

If you still can't find one, please contact me to see if someone else in your area is looking for persons to help start

A FOLLOW UP FROM RUSSIA

by Shirley Sanders
San Antonio, TX

Due to the interest that the first article on Moscow and our friends there generated, I thought that the AVSA members would be interested in knowing what reaction there was from our Russian friends upon having it translated for them.

Elizabeth Sadova gave a program to her African violet club in Moscow about her new friends in America and the plants that she saw while visiting here in San Antonio. She translated the article "From Russia, With Love", to the members of her club who did not speak English. They were very pleased with what had been written. Elizabeth spent two hours with her club showing pictures and answering the many questions that the club members had for her. They wanted to know about our plant medium, lighting, fertilizer and our growing methods.

They are planning on subscriptions to the AVSA magazine for more of their members that speak English. At one time Elizabeth considered a Russian translation of the AVSA magazine by a Russian printer in conjunction with our society. With the economy in the condition it is in now in her country, she knows it would be impossible to try to make arrangements for this project.

She also said that her husband had built her shelves and installed lights for her plants. This is the first time she has had fluorescent lights for her violets, having always grown them in a window. The plants are the bright spot in her daily routine.

I have also heard from our friend, Irena Danilina. She stated that the December meeting of their club was devoted entirely to Elizabeth and her travel to America and her visit with the Sanders and other members of the Magic Knight African Violet Club who grow *Saintpaulia* in San Antonio.

Irena says that they differ a lot from the way we grow our plants, mainly in "mode and conditions of life." They also do not expect as much from their plants as we do. For one thing, they do not expect them to be as large as we grow them for show. They have beautiful blossoms but smaller standards. They would not have the room to grow their violets as large as we do. We must also realize that the climate is quite severe most of the year in their country.

One thing that they both asked the possibility of was more articles by people who maintain their plants in small apartments, or, in a small space in the corner of a room. This would be a tremendous help to them. As I told you in the last article, in most cases the people of Moscow have one to two room apartments. So, if anyone has information they would like to pass on to our Russian friends, please send it to the African Violet Magazine for them to read.

I would like to close with a quote from Irena's letter and I think it says it all. "The most important thing is what really unites us - this is our love for violets and the impossibility of living without their trustful and generous beauty."

WOULD YOU, OR YOUR CLUB, LIKE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR AFRICAN VIOLET FRIENDS IN RUSSIA?

If so, please write to:

Elizabeth Sadova

c/o Ruth Rumsey

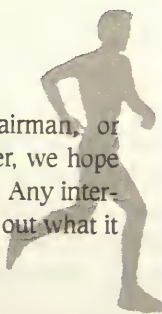
2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702

Attention Affiliates



Are you affiliate fit? If you are looking for answers, join us in Houston, Wednesday, April 7, 5:30 to 6:30 pm. If you have answers, we hope you will come to share. A special presentation is being planned to entertain and inform you. Whether you have been, or will be,

President, AVSA Representative, show chairman, or editor of your affiliate yearbook or newsletter, we hope you will plan to attend. We want to help you. Any interested member is welcome to join us and find out what it means to be **Affiliate Fit!**



Regional Reviews

(Part 1)

compiled by Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Dr.

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

email: Patter257@aol.com

From the panhandle of Florida comes Louise Merritt, a beautiful and very friendly lady who gave a very informative presentation on the small ones at the 1996 Atlanta convention. The key to her success appears to be simple: good, consistent care, keeping an open mind toward trying new methods while maintaining a healthy respect for the tried and true!

My plants are grown in a two story house with central heat and air; mainly downstairs in a small bedroom or family room. Some are grown upstairs as well. The small bedroom has 15 shelves with two 48", 40-watt fluorescent bulbs per shelf. Other rooms mostly have shelves with 24", 20-watt fluorescent bulbs.

Our temperatures range from 65° to 80°, and I estimate the humidity to be between 50-60%. This area has a very humid climate except for possibly a few weeks of the year.

I water with the wick method, using 4-ply yarn for semis and minis; heavier nylon for standards and trailers.

I alternate fertilizers and have no definite schedule. I also mix some fertilizers with good results. About 10 weeks before show, I mainly use bloom boosters.

After repotting, plants are placed on plain water for about a week, then on a weak solution of Fertilome Rooting and Blooming fertilizer 9-59-8. This weak solution consists of half fertilizer water (1/4 t./gallon water) and half tap water. After two to three weeks on the 9-59-8, the plants are started on alternate fertilizers such as Plant Marvel, Dyna-Gro Grow and Dyna-Gro Bloom, Bounty & Sturdy, occasionally Peters 20-20-20, Optimara 14-12-14, and closer to show, I use a mixture of 1/4 t. 9-59-8 and about 1/8 t. Rapid-Gro 23-19-17 per gallon of water. As I like to try new fertilizers and soil recipes, a fellow judge from Morgan City, LA, George Ramirez, shared his formula with me. He uses it mainly on trailers. I tried it on the single crown minis and semis, and I am well pleased with the results. The recipe consists of a mixture of equal parts of Peters 12-36-14, Peters 5-50-17 and Rapid-Gro 23-19-17 used at the rate of 1/8 t./gallon water. The little ones seem to stay more compact and produce plenty of blooms.

I also tried mixing equal parts of Dyna-Gro Grow 7-9-5

and Dyna-Gro Bloom 3-12-6 as used by Janice Bruns. This mixture also produces healthy foliage and plenty of blooms. I use this at the rate of 1/8 t. per gallon of water.

Since my watering method is wicking, the soil mix should be very porous. I have tried many soil recipes, but keep going back to one called Blue Whale which I have used for about 20 years. The original recipe is done in two steps, but I modified it to use when I need more soil in a hurry. I'd be happy to share the original recipe with anyone who wants it. The modified version is as follows:

1 quart sphagnum peat moss (screened and oven pasteurized)

2 quarts coarse perlite, washed (I pour boiling water over perlite in a colander before use. This cuts down on the dust from the perlite and allows for even moisture distribution in the soil.)

2 quarts coarse vermiculite

1/4 cup horticultural charcoal

1 tablespoon Dolomite lime

1/4 teaspoon Bone Meal

1/4 teaspoon Blood Meal

1 teaspoon Ferbam (or other fungicide)

Store in Zip-lock Bag

Another one that I like is a 3-2-1 mix:

3 quarts Pro-Mix Bx (screened and oven pasteurized)

2 quarts coarse vermiculite

1 quart coarse perlite, washed (as in above recipe)

1 cup horticultural charcoal

1 tablespoon Dolomite lime

1 teaspoon Ferbam (or other fungicide)

Store in Zip-lock Bag

To oven pasteurize:

Place screened, dampened (thoroughly moist, but not soggy) peat moss in oven cooking bag. Press out as much air as possible before closing bag with provided nylon tie. This prevents bag from "ballooning" as soil heats and from bursting against an element or hot rack. Place bag in another container (such as aluminum turkey pan) and put in oven on lowest rack. Bake for 2 hours at 180-200 degrees

(lowest temperature). Allow to cool in oven if possible. Screen again before mixing with remaining ingredients to break up any lumps and remove sticks.

My show plants are not kept in a "special" growing area. I rarely know which plants will go to a show until I am ready to pack them for transporting. I try to repot every 3 to 4 months. Miniature plants are kept in 2" pots unless they tend to grow large with large leaves. Then they are potted in 2 1/4" pots. I keep semiminiature plants in 2 1/4" and occasionally go up to 2 1/2" if the plant has a tendency to grow too large for a 2 1/4" pot. Standard plants are graduated in size from solo cups up to 4" and sometimes 5" tub pots. Trailers are usually shown in 5" bulb pans. I do not disbud minis and semis except when transplanting. Sometimes I try to keep standards disbudded until about 10 to 12 weeks before show, but many times my timing may not be accurate and the plants either bloom out before show or do not reach their bloom peak by show time. Our weather is not too dependable in this area, and somehow my standard violets seem to respond accordingly. I do not foliar feed my plants. I did foliar feed standards one year but found with the high humidity here, the tendency for powdery mildew was greater.

Most of my plants are started from leaves. New leaves are sprayed with a mixture of Orthene and Funginex (mixed according to directions on bottles) before being put down in rooting medium. The leaves are put down in a solo cup (with wick) that has perlite in the bottom of the cup, potting soil on top of the perlite and another layer of perlite on top of the soil. The cup is placed on a reservoir (usually a glass jar) and is enclosed in a plastic bag until babies appear. Then babies are removed from the mother leaf and potted in a solo cup if standard and in a 1 3/4" pot if a mini or semi.

My standard plants are grown under one cool white and usually one GroLux wide spectrum bulb, 8 to 10" from top of plant to bulb. My minis and semis can grow closer to the bulb, 5" to 6". Bulbs are changed about every 12 to 18 months, writing date changed with a waxed pencil on warm bulb. Lights are on 8 to 9 hours a day. Sometimes in cooler weather and closer to show, the time can be increased to 10 to 11 hours. One year I extended the lights to 12 hours with no better results. Since there are 15 shelves with lights in one small bedroom, the times are staggered for different shelves to maintain the temperature and to give them 8 hours of darkness. Even with central air and heat, I keep 3 small oscillating fans timed to run in conjunction with the lights.

New plants are sprayed and then isolated for 2 to 3 months. I do not spray as a preventative measure, but wait for any problem that might occur, then spray for that particular problem.

My collection of African violets consists of micro minis, minis, semis, standards, and trailers with the "little ones"

being my favorites, especially the semis. Hortense Pittman's hybrids seem to perform extremely well for me. 'Precious Pink' is very special and I still have my original plant. It is one that I can always depend on for show. I keep it wicked and in the same place on my plant stand - about midway between the middle and end of one of the 48" bulbs. The foliage color sometimes changes from year to year, still variegated, but sometimes with a darker green in it and sometimes with more pink. Others that have won many blue ribbons are 'Hector', 'Pat Champagne', 'Definitely Darryl', and 'Petite Jewel'. 'Cool Blue' is one of her newer hybrids that impresses me very favorably. The foliage is dark green and the light blue double blossoms almost totally cover the center of this symmetrical plant, standing up tall and straight. It usually blooms early and the blossoms remain fresh for a long period of time.

'Ness' Crinkle Blue' (D. Ness) is such a beautiful semi, but it usually grows too large under my growing conditions. I've tried many different soils and fertilizers with the same results, but I'll keep trying.

'Rob's Fiddle Fiddle' (R. Robinson) always does well for me. It grows and blooms wherever it is placed on the shelf. It does require some watching as it often has a tendency to grow too large. It then, must have 1 to 2 rows of leaves removed. Repotting is needed more often to maintain its correct size. It has semidouble rose-pink blossoms and dark green pointed, hairy, serrated, redback foliage.

'Amazing Grace' (Souls) is an old but beautiful standard. Mine grows toward the end of my lights with very pale pink semidouble fringed blossoms and very ruffled apple green foliage. Sometimes, the ruffled foliage becomes so tight that leaves in the center prevent blossoms from opening. Some leaves need to be removed from the middle of the plant to correct this problem and allow the stems to grow properly and open. When it reaches show quality, it is outstanding.

Trailers are not easy for me to grow. However, 'Baby Brian' (P. Tracey), a semi trailer with single pale blue star blooms and plain green foliage, looks very promising. It grows well without much help from me. This is my second try on 'Baby Brian'. The first plant started with a small crown, healthy foliage, and produced many crowns to have nice form in a 5" bulb pan. After 3 years with no blooms or even a bud to show, however, I tossed it. I'm glad that I did not give up on it after the first try because my second plant has excellent form and mounds of blooms.

*The hot, arid, Arizona desert is from where **Rosemary Lort** hails, which offers the most challenging conditions of all for violet growing. Rosemary is a big proponent of Dyna-Gro, and with the difficulties she experiences one can understand why she prefers this very gentle, violet-sensitive fertilizer.*

First of all, do not grow African violets outside in Arizona unless you want fried violets!

There are several ways to successfully grow African violets indoors while living in the desert. Some growers use a wicked pot, while others prefer matting and Oyama Pots. Matting seems to work the best for me, although I do have several in Oyama Pots. I have two light stands of violets in my bathroom. I put variegated varieties on the bottom shelves where they get natural light and it is cool so they don't lose their variegation.

Unfortunately, in the summer I have no blooms because of the heat.

When I water I usually use Dyna-Gro Grow (1/4 tsp. in a gallon of warm water). Sometimes I change off with other fertilizers, the numbers of which add up to or almost equal 60. Dyna-Gro pH up and pH down also works very well, and summer is a good time to use Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt because it helps with the heat.

Lights are left on in the winter for about 10 hours; in the summer 8 hours at the most. Sometimes I use two cool white bulbs and sometimes a cool and a warm. Two cool seem to work best in the summer. Some natural light is also received from a south window.

I try to keep soil light by mixing one bag of Schultz African Violet Soil, four 1 lb. coffee cans of pumice, two coffee cans of vermiculite and one cup of charcoal. It seems to work best in my desert conditions.

Winston Goretsky is a respected grower from Calgary, Alberta, and is very active in the African Violet Society of Canada. Last year, this talented gentleman gave two presentations at the Sacramento convention, and took the photographs of winners of the national show which appear in the AVM. Thank you Winston, for this insight into your growing methodology!

I grow my African violets and other gesneriads in the basement of my home, which has a fairly even temperature range. During the autumn and winter months, the home is heated with a forced air natural gas furnace with a humidifier. This is the most stable growing season for my plants, as the temperature range is ideal September to April being 19° C at night and 24° C daytime, with 38 to 55% humidity. In May to August it's 21° C at night and 30° C daytime, with 40 to 65% humidity.

I use an individual watering system with each plant having a saucer. I alternate watering from the top and the bottom. I make my own soil mixture, which is a modified variation of the Fisher mix, but I use earthworm castings as the organic soil component and substitute 80-90 percent of the peat moss with GROWBRIX (100% organic vegetable matter). It seems to break down slower than peat moss, and has a pH range of 5.4.

I use pure distilled water, with trace elements added, and one eighth to one quarter strength of fertilizer. I rotate several brands of fertilizer, paying particular attention to avoid the ones with urea as a base for nitrogen.

All of my lights are on a timer, which runs 12 hours a day, all year round, 12 noon to 12 midnight. I use fluorescent lights made by General Electric, which have a color temperature of 5000 kelvin (approximate intensity of noonday sun). I buy them in a case of 36 bulbs and they cost about \$5.00 (Canadian) each.

Varieties with which I have been impressed so far this year are: 'Music Box Dancer', Sorano, large semidouble-double rose-pink star with a wide white shaded edge. This plant has blossoms that just keep growing bigger and bigger, and the foliage is very well behaved. 'Baritone' by Stork, is a rich colored blossom of dark purple-red with very nice dark green foliage. When disbudded and then allowed to blossom it explodes with a massive flush of bloom. 'Prancing Pony', also by Sorano, has a double dark pink parisy with vibrant dark blue fantasy markings. This semi-miniature plant keeps a nice shape. Even when allowed to bloom for a long time, the center remains nice and tight. 'Rob's Galiwinku', by Ralph Robinson, is a double red-orchid with dark blue fantasy semiminiature trailer. It is a very nice, quickly branching trailer, that has very well behaved foliage which appears to maintain its size and impressive fantasy on dark-colored blossoms; a real treat to grow for those who are looking for something that isn't pink. 'Rob's Twinkle Blue', another by Robinson, is a semi-double dark blue miniature which stays miniature and the foliage doesn't grow larger when potted into a larger size pot. This is a very heavy bloomer and holds a vibrant color of blue.

From Portland, Oregon, Valerie Miller takes a different perspective to the Regional Review. Instead of telling us how she grows her plants, she reviews the various growing methods and styles of local club members. Thanks, Valerie for this unique article.

I would like to explain how our members adapt to the versatility of growing *Saintpaulia* in Oregon. African violets brighten up our indoor landscape. We bring particularly lovely blooming plants to our living areas to enjoy. Why grow lovely flowering plants if we can not enjoy their beauty as we go about our daily routine?

A few members grow using our sunny days to provide the energy for growth while most grow under fluorescent lights as sunny days are quite unpredictable. When we do have consistent sunshine, we humans enjoy the delight of light and warmth, too. That is the time plants growing in window light get the extra attention, a few extra strokes of a soft brush and other TLC.

Some members' homes have basements. Many of us use every available space for plants. Whether the basement is finished and interior decorated or just utilitarian, several of us have found it an excellent growing area. Because we have more hillsides than flat areas, our basements are often only partly in the ground, called "daylight" basements. As on the main floor, we can use combined daylight and fluorescent light.

One member's husband converted a garage building by insulating it, adding plumbing, fluorescent fixtures in wooden stands and worktables. Of course, the main attraction of a 'home tour' is the lovely African violets living in this neat, well-lit area. Laretta often does not make it to the table at our plant sales without being stopped or having a string of admirers following her as she brings in a load of plants. (We have been considering providing her with 'security'.) She uses regular potting mix, perlite, vermiculite with some charcoal and systemic added and wick waters. Her husband made stainless steel carriers to hold several African violets each. In that manner, each plant arrives in excellent condition.

Charlotte grows the related gesneriads and miniature AV's using a two to one mix of coarse vermiculite and coarse perlite, wicking with synthetic yarn and running the fluorescent lights at night during our usually short hot summer weather. With many shelves of open trays of fertilized wicking water, the humidity factor is well accommodated.

Dick likes to try finding better ways to grow plants. He has been investigating the problem of nitrogen fertilizer used with some essentially sterile, artificial media. Dick informed us, "For the past year and a half, I was having trouble with bottom leaves and petioles turning to brown mush and new growth looking bad. I heard a horticultural chemist talk on fertilizers and how nutrients work in plants. One of the things he mentioned was plants did not like nitrogen from urea. He said that bacteria in soil could not break it down properly. The plants took up the urea nitrogen whether it could be used or not. Bottom leaves and petioles turning to mush is the plant's way of getting rid of the unconverted nitrogen compound. He suggested using fertilizer with a nitrate nitrogen source only. I did this and all the new growth is green and healthy." Dick wowed us all when he brought his *Saintpaulia* 'Deer Path Trail' to our club meeting.

Janet is finding that her African violets are 'invading' her collection of Christmas cactus. Growing on shelves in front of large windows with a southern exposure is her setting. She also has been trying the same fertilizer that Dick uses and loves the improved plant appearance. She uses a standard African violet potting mix with added perlite. She top waters weekly. Each of her 'violets' get 'christened' with affectionate names as each has its own personality

and reminds her of someone, contemporary or in literature.

We have two members who are past their ninetieth birthdays; both are very active participants in our activities. Leona is an excellent gardener and actively maintains her lovely yard and a host of house plants, while the other, Paul, is one of our best supporters and is usually the first on hand at set up for a plant sale. He has served as our treasurer several times. He always greets us with a cheery smile at each meeting, whether it's membership or board.

Paul's wife, Ruth, loves growing African violets, related gesneriads, and a few other plants. Paul mixes two parts sifted peat moss, one part vermiculite, one part coarse perlite, one part small size pumice (size of small peas), some charcoal and agricultural lime for pH adjustment; pasteurizing the mix in the oven. Ruth places pieces of plastic light-fixture-grid inside her trays and covers the grid with interfacing fabric. Plants are wicked with synthetic yarn and pots are placed on matting, end of matting is draped in the fertilized water below. Trays need topping off twice a week.

Chris has been demonstrating to the rest of us how to recover from a bout of soil mealybugs that she was unable to eradicate and had her entire collection dumped. Her eight three-shelf light stands are already bulging after only a few months. At our last board meeting, she invited, in fact begged, members to come help 'pot-up' to 4" pots.

*The Windy City lays claim to many notables, and one of them is **Steve Covolo**! Holder of a degree in Botany from Purdue University, Steve is most knowledgeable in plant culture, particularly when it relates to fertilization. Although I've never seen a show winner of his, I'm told they are sheer perfection and show a certain "refinement" unlike anything else on display. He has high expectations of his plants, and refuses to grow more than 50 plants at any given time. I hope you enjoy the contribution of this plant connoisseur!*

My "furry friends" are grown in a north bedroom with almost no residual light. The room has dark paneling, so there is almost no reflective light at all. The temperature of this room remains cool in the winter, yet it can get a tad warm in the summer. I do use A/C during the summer to keep the temperature under control. The converse is true for winter. Being a north bedroom, it can get very chilly on those winter nights. I use an oil-contained heater that is set at 72° F. The temperature range is between 72-80° throughout the whole growing season. A belt driven humidifier is active all season long. I like to keep the humidity between 50-70% at all times.

All of my violets are wick watered on reservoirs. They are wicked with Wintuk yarn for larger plants and masonry cord for the smaller plants and small ones. In the reservoirs Dyna-Gro 7-9-5 is used for maintenance. The rate of

application is 18 drops to a gallon of water. (Note that this is slightly less than a quarter teaspoon per gallon). For bloom boosting I use Schultz's Bloom Plus 10-60-10 at a quarter teaspoon per gallon of water.

At peak bloom production time I will use 1/8 teaspoon Pro-TeKt per gallon, added to my Dyna-Gro solution. Please note that all my fertilizers are "Urea free".

Right now my growing medium is coconut fiber. I'm having very good results with it and my plants are not showing as much setback after repotting as they did in a peat base mix. My coconut fiber mix reads as follows: one brick fiber, to this add 1.5 gallons of hot water, let the brick expand and absorb the water. When the brick has expanded I then pour off the excess water. To this add five 26 ounce coffee cans of medium perlite. The final ingredient is 2 cups of horticulture charcoal.

I have two 3-tiered light stands and one 4-tiered stand, all with 18" spaced light fixtures. These were all purchased

from Indoor Gardening Supplies. I use Gro-Lux standard tubes on everything except my small ones and my trailers. They are grown with Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tubes.

My passion in the violet world are the "Large" standards. Some new additions to my violet family that have impressed me are: 'Tomorrow's Starlight' (Jeff Smith), a light to medium two-tone pink cupped star with a nice raspberry edge all tied up with a variable white edge. This plant has great symmetry and foliage, with a great bloom head. It has given me a Best in Show title, too. 'Cen-Tex Rose' (Bill Foster) is a must-try pink that has great foliage and symmetry; the vote is still out on bloom count. Some proven show winners that perform for me consistently are 'Harbor Blue', 'Ness' Blue Velvet', 'Ocean Eyes', 'Powwow' and 'Ode to Beauty'. In the trailer department I have two top performers: the semiminature 'Sundown Trail' and in the standard class, 'Cherry Blossom Trail'.



2nd Annual AVSA Convention Auction: DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

As you know, the great state of Texas is well-known for many things, generosity being one of them. Frances Young of Austin, former President of AVSA, has donated her COMPLETE set of AVM's, dating back to volume 1, issue #1 for the auction. They are in binders through 1990. This is a very rare, very unique item, and we are forever indebted to Frances for this donation.

Thanks to everyone else who has donated an item to the auction. They include hand-painted porcelain collectible pendants, Royal Chelsea Violets Demitasse Cream & Sugar bowls, a limited edition, very rare Filipino Barbie doll with a violet design dress, and a handmade quilted woman's vest with violet appliques. Other items are; several fine books on our favorite houseplants, Secrets of Gesneriad Growing by an Expert, by Max Dekking, About African Violets, by Montague Free, African Violets: Queens of the Indoor Gardening Kingdom, by Melvin Robey, African Violets, by Tony Clements, and a violet teapot set and a handcrafted violet plate.

Several other items have been suggested, but as yet, are not finalized.

For those of you still wishing to donate an item, please notify me and/or Dale as soon as possible. Please include a brief description of the item and an approximate value. You can either bring the item with you to convention or mail it to Dale ahead of time. Donations received before convention will be recognized in a special notice at convention, and all donations will receive recognition in the AVM after convention. Proceeds will go to marketing materials that will help publicize affiliates.

We hope to see everyone at the Saturday luncheon auction! (Remember, you must attend the banquet in order to attend the auction). Thank you so much!

Pat Richards
15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
1-913-829-4258
fax: 1-913-829-4858
email: Patter257@aol.com

Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, TX 77573
email: martens@wt.net



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Thinking Small



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

*This month we have my third guest columnist, **Fay Wagman** who, along with her husband **Irwin**, operates the Violet Venture in Pittsford, New York. Not only is this guest column delightfully written, it is also extremely informative! No one should be surprised at this though because Fay almost swept the Commercial awards in the specimen classes in Sacramento, with her tiny but perfect small ones. I hope you enjoy her contribution!*

When Pat asked me to write a guest article for her wonderful column, I told her I couldn't think of anything to add to the useful information already found here. Then she told me to just detail my particular growing habits, (and idiosyncrasies), so I agreed. Much will be redundant, of course, since I merely attempt to follow the advice given by the experts at growing miniatures, like Ralph Robinson, Sidney Sorano and Pat.

Pat was particularly interested in my very small miniatures. I tend to grow all my plants quite small. I've always been fascinated with all kinds of miniature things. (Despite the fact that I do not have a miniature physique!) Pauline Bartholomew's "Growing to Show" appeared just about the time I was getting into growing, and her chapter on miniaturizing was definitely an influence.

Growers of large show plants choose starter plants of varieties that have proven their potential to produce very large, flat foliage. Conversely, plants known to have tiny leaves and compact habit are the ones to start with. A few of my current favorites are 'Planet Kid', 'Rob's Penny Ante', 'Petite Ruby', 'Chimpansey', 'Snuggle Bear', 'Rochelle's Toy Rascal', 'Lyon's June Bug', 'Tooly McCooly', and 'Lollipop'.

Of course, each year I purchase whatever new miniatures become available, and so the list of current favorites is constantly changing. I purchase leaves rather than plants, if possible. If only plants are available, I put down several leaves as soon as the plant is received.

SOIL MIX

I use Promix HP for both potting and for starting leaves. In a five gallon pail, I mix one or two cups horticultural charcoal, about one quart of very coarse vermiculite, and about four and a half gallons of Promix HP. I keep adding the Promix until the pail is full to the top. I carefully pour in a gallon of hot water (which I take directly from the electric heater) into the pail. After letting it sit at least one full day, I just keep stirring up the top of the pail, and the consistency is always just the right degree of moisture for potting. It will keep this nice level of moisture for a few weeks. Since I use a soil scoop (the kind purchased from Violets from the Starrs), this consistency is quite important.

PROPAGATION

I propagate new leaves individually and with much more care than the leaves of my established plants that I wish to duplicate. For newly purchased leaves, a 2" pot is wicked with a thin strip of nylon hose and filled with the soil mix. The name of the variety is written on the label (a 5" marker which I have cut in half) with an ultra fine Pilot black marker. The stem is then cut to about 1/4", and inserted into the soil at a slight angle. The one thing I do that may be different is to cut straight across the stem, not at an

angle. Consequently, I generally get only two or three babies from each leaf, sometimes only one, but they seem to be slightly larger and stronger than a clump of many babies. If I do end up with a large clump, I often remove several of the weaker crowns, leaving no more than two or three to mature.

The 2" pot is then put into a plastic egg-shaped terrarium, with drain holes in both the top and bottom. The wick is pulled through the drain hole in the egg, and then it is placed in an 8" x 12" tray, lined with a square of synthetic blanket. I purchased these eggs several years ago from "Patches 'n Pots", and have been using them ever since. However, I haven't been able to locate another supplier. If you know where they can be purchased, please let me know. I did make a reasonable substitute by putting the pot into a 3" plastic drinking glass, inverting another on top of it, and taping the two together. It works well, but requires individual watering, as I was unable to make holes for the wick. The glasses kept splitting and breaking every time I tried to drill or burn holes into them.

When putting down leaves for sales or project plants, I use clear plastic, square food containers with tightly closing lids, approximately 4" x 5" x 2". I fill the bottom half nearly full with potting mix, then insert several leaves, cutting and angling them exactly the same way as the newly purchased leaves. After closing the cover tightly, I write the name and date on the side of the container.

POTTING

When the babies develop, they are potted into individual one ounce Solo, or Sweetheart, clear plastic cups. I purchase these at a restaurant supply store, and I think Sam's Club or similar stores also carry them. My husband drills three small holes in the bottom, so that I can insert a wick (again, strips of nylon hose) in each pot. Occasionally, I will pot a few candidates for show entries into the very smallest Oyama pots. These are 1-1/2" two piece self-watering pots. The inner pot has a narrow tube which is partially filled with perlite, then filled to the top with the Promix, in which the plant is potted. The outer pot has lines to show how much water to add. They are available from Cape Cod Violetry.

GROWING

The little pots are put into 8" x 12" trays that are lined with a mat cut from an acrylic blanket. The trays are set about twelve inches under the lights. The mat is watered about every six days, using a mixture of 1/4 tsp. fertilizer and one drop of Superthrive per gallon. I use either Dyna Gro 7-9-5 or Peters Peat-Lite Special (15-16-17). My lights are a combination of one cool white and one wide-spectrum tube per fixture, 12 hours a day.

As they begin to grow slightly, I move half the plants to

another tray, attempting not to crowd them (I'm not always successful!), and keep removing outer rows of leaves to keep them as symmetrical as possible.

Most of the very small ones are kept in the one ounce cups until they are ready to go to a show or sale. Some of the very smallest are then put into 1-1/4" thumb pots. The rest are potted into two inch or 2-1/8" pots. The plants that I grow for leaf production are potted into 2-1/4" pots, which is the largest pot I ever use for mini's or semi's.

I maintain the same feeding and lighting schedule all the time. I'm afraid I'm not a sufficiently organized person to follow the rigid schedule required to consistently produce great show plants. That's probably why my results are somewhat sporadic and not always successful. But I always enjoy all the aspects of growing, and have a lot of fun taking plants for show.

SHOWING

One great advantage of growing miniatures is the number of plants that can be fitted into a very small space on an airplane. I had originally thought that I could exhibit only when a convention was within driving distance. My early attempts at trying to carry plants on an airplane had very mixed results. The first time my husband-to-be accompanied me to a convention, he picked up my plant box and sent it flying through the x-ray. And I do mean flying. It went end over end, and I ended up with nothing but a few leaves to give away. (I married him anyway, and he is now wonderfully adept at transporting plants!) After that, I would carry them on my lap, placing them under the seat during take-off, and constantly unpack for inspection, so as to avoid putting them through x-ray.

Last year, my husband cut down some copy paper cartons to approximately 17" x 24" x 8", a size that fits perfectly in the overhead bins. We then filled them full of shredded newspaper. The plants were nearly buried into the paper. The covers were tied down very tightly. He added some carrying handles made of heavy twine. These boxes went through the x-ray with no problem, and fit perfectly into the overhead bin. Of course, I use the overhead on the opposite side of the airplane from my seat, and woe to any passenger who tries to cram anything around the boxes that may damage them.

At the last convention, I managed to fit 14 small plants in two boxes, including two species plants. They all traveled clear across the country without losing blossoms.

Coming home, I have plenty of room for wonderful new acquisitions, as the plants I take are usually traded or given away. I also take an extra shopping bag in my suitcase, that can be filled with new leaves and put under the seat!

I hope you will be encouraged to grow some of the darling miniatures, and to share the fun of entering them in a show.

Showcase

Magnolia

Exhibited by: Nelly Levine

Hybridized by: Burns/Nadeau

Large



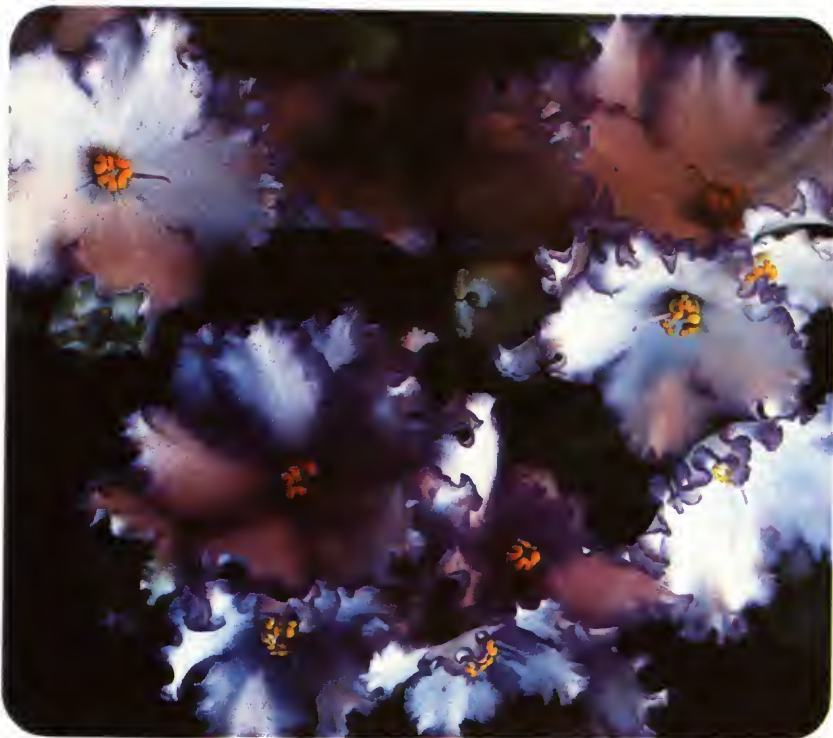
Little Axel

Exhibited by: Betty Margetts

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Semiminiature





Stan's Legacy

Exhibited by: Nelly Levine

Hybridized by: Stan Stancliff
Standard



Smithiantha *'Little One'*

Exhibited by: Bev Promersberger

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

In planning a genetic cross in African violets, does it make a difference which parent is chosen as the seed parent and which is used as the pollen parent? In many cases it won't make a difference, but in others, the choice of the seed parent plant could be critical. The object in choosing a seed parent is for the flowers to be able to form seed easily when pollinated. If the flowers are full doubles, the pistils are sometimes malformed, preventing seed formation. Choose plants that are single sticktights or semidoubles to avoid this problem. If variegated offspring are desired, the seed parent should be variegated, as is discussed in the first question below. For most other characters, both parents contribute equally to the offspring. Therefore, both parents should have strong characters for foliage, flowers and growth.

Q: *Can I get red doubles on variegated foliage from a cross of 'Alamo Red' with 'Lela Marie'. Will it make a difference which plant is used as the seed parent?*

A: Yes, if variegated offspring are your goal, it will make a difference as to which plant is used as the seed parent. Since 'Lela Marie' is variegated and 'Alamo Red' is not, you should use 'Lela Marie' as the seed parent. Since both plants have double flowers, most of the offspring should have double flowers. The red flowers of 'Alamo Red' will be dominant to the pink of 'Lela Marie' so at least 50% of the offspring should have red flowers, but they will be of a fuchsia red. If you want the coral red flower color of 'Alamo Red', you will have to conduct a

backcross. Use the best variegated F1 offspring as the seed parent and 'Alamo Red' as the pollen parent. About 50% of the next generation will have the coral red coloration of 'Alamo Red' and they should be on variegated offspring.

Q: *A plant produced from a cutting of 'Antheflores Raphael' is showing mosaic variegation in the foliage. Can a plant sport from non-variegated to mosaic variegation?*

A: It is possible for a plant to sport and form mosaic variegation. I have seen this happen with one of the original 10 violets and in plants produced from seed that was treated with radiation. What I think is more likely, however, is that the trait for mosaic variegation was already in the plant, but was not being expressed. The expression of variegated foliage is dependent on the ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts. If the ratio of normal chloroplasts is high, the leaf will not show variegation. If the ratio shifts, as can happen when a new plant starts from a single cell in a leaf cutting, variegation can start to show in the leaves. Often the amount of variegation is small, but repeated selection through additional generations of leaf cuttings can sometimes intensify and stabilize the variegation until a pleasing result is obtained. Since we do not have any thumbprint flowers on mosaic foliage, I hope you will be successful in stabilizing the variegation. Good Luck!

Q: *What is a sport? How do you determine if a sport is an improvement?*

A: A sport is an unexpected mutation in the DNA of a plant that results in a change in the plant's physical appearance. Sports can be in the flower shape, flower color, leaf characteristics or any other genetically controlled trait. The determination of the improvement of a sport over the original plant is a judgmental one. For example, a fantasy-flowered plant that sports to a solid color is not considered an improvement. A single-flowered plant that sports to double flowers was a considerable improvement when it happened in 'Blue Boy', one of the original 10 violets. Up until that time, double flowers were unknown in violets. The sport provided the genetic material necessary for breeding doubles and semidouble flowers. If the same sport for double flowers occurred in today's plants, it would likely be ignored. What judges look for in sports is for the changed character to be a general improvement in the show potential of the plant. Use this as your guide and you'll have a general idea if the sport is an improvement.

Q: *Is African violet hybridizing seasonal?*

A: Since African violets have the potential to bloom year around, there is also a potential to hybridize at all times

of the year. I have found, however, that some seasons work a little better than others. For example, the growth of the pollen tube down the pistil to the seeds appears to require high humidity. Crosses that are made during the drier times of the year, such as winter, may have less success. Crosses made during the spring when the humidity is often higher, may be more successful. I've often found it a good idea to make crosses on rainy days to take advantage of the higher humidity. Misting the pollinated plant frequently for several days after making the cross may raise the humidity enough to help successful seed set.

Q: *Do any of the species plants show colors other than blue, purple or light blue?*

A: There is a report that a plant of *Saintpaulia rupicola* in the Kenya National Museum collection has pink flowers. I have not seen this plant and it is not currently available in collections in the United States. The plant *Saintpaulia white ionantha*, which has not been described as a true species, actually has very pale blue flowers, not pure white. No other colors have been reported for the *Saintpaulia* species plants, but a recent collection of *S. confusa* in the Mather collection does show red-violet in its flowers instead of blue violet.

The African Violet Society of Canada 32nd Convention, Show and Annual Meeting "Toronto Welcomes Violets"

May 28 - 30, 1999
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The AVSA Judges' Council - Ontario and The Toronto African Violet Society are excited to host the 32nd Convention, Show and Annual Meeting of the AVSC from May 28 - 30, 1999 at the Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, and at The Holiday Inn-Don Valley Hotel, 1100 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto.

The theme this year is "Toronto Welcomes Violets" and we know that you will receive a warm welcome here in our mega-city of Toronto.

The Civic Garden Centre, Edward Gardens, which is the location of the show and meeting rooms, is one of Toronto's premier gardens. They are known around the country for their spectacular spring flowering gardens and wonderful rhododendrons. You can enjoy the formal gardens or take a longer walk through one of the many natural areas. We know you will enjoy this special setting in the heart of Toronto.

In addition, this year we are combining the Spring

Meeting of The New York State AVS with this superb African Violet Convention and Show.

We look forward to seeing you again if you have joined us in the past. If you have been thinking about visiting Toronto, now is the perfect opportunity!

Looking forward to seeing YOU in Toronto!

For further information contact:
Doris Brownlie, Show Chairman
600 Silvercreek Blvd., #80
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2B4
(905) 270-6776

Beverley Williams, Co-Convention Chairman
3052 Grenville Drive,
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2P7
(905) 275-5408 or
E-Mail: foxtalks@echo-on.net

Showcase

Rebel's Cranberry Creme

New Introduction - 1998

*Hybridized & Grown by: **Ruth Bann***

Large



Windmill

New Introduction - 1998

*Hybridized & Grown by: **Kent Stork***

Standard





White Dew

Grown by: Bev Promersberger

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature



Rhapsodie Angelica

Grown by: Kent Stork

*From Best Holtkamp
Collection (Commercial)*

*1998 AVSA National Show
Standard*

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Spring is here! Every day is a new day with something else in the mail. Received a note from Arizona saying that 'Miriam Steel' had been found. Unfortunately it will not be available for some time as it is very small. All of you waiting will just have to wait just a little bit longer, but remember the end is in sight. Some 'Millie Blair' leaves walked into one of our local shows some time ago. The kind person leaving them for me didn't leave a name so I could thank them. Just a message they were for me. I am still trying to get them propagated. Those of you waiting for that will also have to wait just a little bit longer too. I had a plant of 'Rhapsodie GiGi' sent to me some time ago. Still just as lovely as always. If you are looking for something that doesn't get too big, this is the plant for you.

Please, if you have lost one of your treasures that has

been listed with me in the past, LET ME KNOW ABOUT IT! This way I will not send your name and address to someone, wasting time and postage. You never know, I just might have a replacement.

I can't seem to say too much about respect, and these old timers need your respect when you judge them.

Please read the **AVSA Most Wanted List** carefully. Do you grow one or two of these plants? There are growers waiting to hear from you. Did you know that 'Delft Imperial' was shown at the Sacramento AVSA Convention? It is still as lovely as it was over 36 years ago!

Remember to always return the postage when someone is kind enough to share with you. Also remember to send a self-addressed envelope for my reply when writing to me.

Thanks too, for your many letters and kind words.

AVSA'S MOST WANTED

Adeline Krogman
Agglitter
Albert The Second
Alice Marie
Alzira
America
American
Anna Therese
Anne Slocomb
Antique Elegance
Arabesque
Apricot Frost
Arctic Blizzard
Aunt Jemina
Autumn Russett
Baby Blue
Baker's Hot Lips
Ballet Candy
Ballet Carla

Ballet Erica
Ballet Grace
Ballet Helga
Ballet Meta
Bee Tee Lee
Belle's Spring Song
Bernice
Betty's Cindy Darlene
Billy 'Crash' Craddock
Black Congo
Black Gold
Black Waves
Blazing
Blue Bouquet
Blue Dart
Blue Fandango
Blue Nymph (Standard)
Blue Peak
Blue Reverie

Blue Skies
Blue Velvet
Blue Warrior
Bobby
Bryte Angel
Bryte Bells
Bryte Glitter
Bryte Sensation
Bryte Tips
Bubblin' Over
Bullseye
Bunny Hop
Buttercup
Butterflies
Butterfly White
Cafe Au Lait
Calico Kitten
California Cascade
Candy Dandy

Caribbean Ice
Catherine
Cat's Meow
Cherokee Rose
Cinderella (Flower Pot)
Cinderella's Slipper
Cinnamon Twist
Circus Circus
Circus Clown
Clackamas Surprise
Clipper
Colibri
Cumbella
Comet Trail
Confessions
Constance Hansen
Constance Hansen
Supreme
Coon Valley

Copy Cat
Coral Cascade
Coral Radiance
Coral Reef
Coral Tips
Cordelia
Cotton Bowl
Crested Jewel
Crimsonny
Crown of Red
Crusade Trail
Curley Q
Cyndy
Dainty Doll
Daisy Doll
Dallas Pride
Dalliance
Dansuese
Dark Eyes

Darth Vader	Granger's Peppermint	Maverick's Young Love	Purple Crest	Sweet Lady
Dates Fanfare	Granger's Rio Rita	May Dance	Purple Rocket	Sweet Lime
Deep Sea Treasure	Granger's Venetian Lace	Melly	Purple Star	Swiftly Lace
Delphine (Fredette)	Great Find	Melodie Frances	Push Over	Targeteer
Desiree	Great Scott	Merry Christmas	Radiant Star	Tassy
Diana Ross	Great White Way	Michele	Rainbow's Bantam	Teen Wonder
Dib's Thrill	Green Glo	Mighty Mini	Neon Glo	The Bride
Dingbat	Gypsy Charm	Minako	Rainbow's Showboat	The Parson's Ruffles
Dippity Do	Half And Half	Mine Alone	Raspberry Frills	The Parson's Wife
Dixie Moonbeam	Handkerchief	Ming White	Ravencrest	Timbertop
Dominion Rose	Heavenly Halo	Miss Beautiful	Ravishing Ruffles	Tinari's Blue Eyes
Donna Lee	Highbrow	Miss Liberty	Red and White	Tinari's Star Trailer
Dorothy Gray	Holly Dolly	Miss Wisconsin	Red Carnation	Tinari's Wild Girl
Do's Jean	Holly Go Lightly	Mohawk Trail	Red Rocket	Tinted Snow
Double Dutchess	Holly Peach	Montgomery Silver Frost	Regina	Tiny Blue
Double Mini Orchid	Hot Cargo	Moon Moths	Renee	Tiny Pink
Double Pink Cloud	Hot Lips	Moon Silver	Reverie	Top Notch
Double Seafoam	Hot Touch	Mountain Blue Boy	Rhapsodie Candy	Tribute
Double Uncle Bob	Illini Deb	Mountain Wildflowers	Rhapsodie Gigi	Triple Threat
Dresden China	Illini Gem	Ms. Frizz	Rhapsodie Venus	Twinkle
Dutchman	Indian Summer	My Spoon	Rhapsody	Valeria
Easter Egg	Ivory Venus	Neon Rainbow	Rhinestone Cowboy	Vampire's Kiss
Edge of Midnight	Jealous Pink	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Rippled Romance	Vibrant Val
Eileen	Jeff's Jewel	Night Fever	Risque	Victoria
Eleanor	Jennifer	Nosy Bouquet	Rosalynn Carter	Violet 'n' Gold
Elsie	Jimmy Carter	Odyssey	Rosie Lou	Viva
El Toro Supreme	Jimmy Crack Corn	Ohio Sunset	Rowena	Vulcan's Treasure
Emma Lahr	Josie	Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)	Royal Elegance	Wanderlust
Emperor Wilhelm	Joy Pink	On Edge	Royal Heart	What Now
Etna	Just Beautiful	Optimara Kansas	Royal Ruby	Whirlaway
Fairy Image	Kay Russell	Optimara Little Cherokee	Russian Hill	Whirlaway Sport
Fancy Flirt	Kiss't	Optimara Maryland	Sailor's Dream	Whisper Valley
Fantasy Lou	Krista Lynn	Optimara Missouri	Sea Grape	White Feathers
Festival	Lacy Laser	Optimara New Jersey	Sea Gull	White Pride Supreme
Fisher's Anne Marie	Lacy Red	Optimara Pennsylvania	Sea Queen	White Wedgewood
Floral Fantasy	Lady Catherine	Optimara Sequoia	Sea Shell	White Whisper
Fox Run	Lady Luck	Orchid Beauty	Sensational	Wizard of Oz
Fredette's Blue Jean	Lavender Lady	Orchid Ripples	Shannon Renee	Wrangler's Buckboard
Fredette's Elita	Lavender Love	Pam's Potpourri	Sheryl's Renee	Bounce
Fredette's Sugar Blues	Legacy	Paragon	Shine Boy	Wrangler's Campfire
Fredette's Twilight	Like Wow	Park Avenue	Silver Anniversary	Wrangler's Double
Fantasy	Lilac Puff	Paul's Pazazz	Silver Crest	Pleasure
Frosty	Lilac Time	Peepers	Silver Flute	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Galatic Star	Lillie Belle	Penguin	Silver Token	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Galt Grape	Lilith Lassie	Peppermint Fog	Skagit Ambassador	Wrangler's Lavender
Gay Coquette	Little Dee	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sky Magic	Lasso
Genessee Silhouette	Little Doe	Pilgrim Maid	Snow Drops	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Geneva Rose	Little Lou	Pink Beauty	Snow Flake	Wrangler's Moonshine
Geneva Trail	Little Maroon	Pink Dresden	Snow Queen	Wrangler's Pardner
GiGi	Little Rascal	Pink Frosting	Spangles	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Gilded Strawberry	Little Red Wagon	Pink Geneva	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Ricochet
Glacier Point	Lucky Duck	Pink Girl	Sport of Crimson Frost	Romance
Glow Baby	Lucky Stripe	Pink Philly	Star of David	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Golden Rubies	Luxury	Pink Time	Star of India	Wrangler's Roundup
Gorgeous Bicolor	Lyndy Lou	Pink Velvet	Stormy Night	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Gorgeous One	Lynn	Pistachio	Sugar Plum Fairy	Wrangler's Twilight Trail
Granger's Calais	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Plum Passion	Summer Silk	Wrangler's Wanderin' Star
Granger's Eternal Snow	Manhattan	Plum Tip	Summer Spice	Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Granger's Fashionaire	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Pom Pom Delight	Suncoast Pink Giant	Zippy (Baker)
Granger's Blue	Maroon Frost	Pretty Please	Sunday Morning	Zuri
Fashionaire	Mary Ann	Priscilla	Swan Lake	
Granger's Jim Dandy	Mary Lou	Puerto Vallarta	Sweet Honesty	

Showcase

Smooch Me

New Introduction - 1998

Hybridized & Grown by: Kent Stork

Standard



Ness' Cranberry Lace

New Introduction - 1998

Hybridized & Grown by: Don Ness

Standard





*(l-r) Frosted Denim
Ness' Angel Babe
Rob's Tippy Toe*

2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection

1998 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Fay Wagman

“And the winners are ...”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Grandmother's Halo, Optimara Louisiana, Satin Wine; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Sassy Shirley; Best in Show/Best Standard: Grandmother's Halo; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Makin' Romance, Frosted Whisper; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Satin Rose, **Christel Collier**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Ron Bannester**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Alice's Aussie', **Carol Schreck**. Best in Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Ode to Beauty, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Coral Sunset; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Kathleen Rapske**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Milky Way Trail, Sundown Trail; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gini McCanne**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Ann Wang**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus micranthus*, **Dee Probert**. Best Design, **Honey Geck**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Vinciguerra**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Ruffled Skies, Ode to Beauty; Best in Show/Best Standard: Splendiferous, **Betty Brunson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dumplin', Windy Day, Rhapsodie Sonja, **Mildred Knorr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Marion's Enchanted Trail, Rob's Wooloomooloo; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Gesneriad: *xSmithicodonia* 'Behavin', **Marianne Gerson**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hot Chocolate; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy DePhillippo**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Judith Smith**.

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA - Winners: Best

AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Dumplin', Lavender Spray; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Dust Storm; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Standard: Dumplin', Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Oscar Faoro**. Best Trailer: Rob's Willawong; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Sapphire Halo, Coral Glo; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Topsy, Snuggles Little Dreamer, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Lois Duval**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hot Spot, Natchurly Nawlins, Texas Dynamo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sarah McGaha**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Emily's Papa', **Margie Kotliar**.

LAKE SHORE AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ms. Pretty Pink, Ness' Blue Velvet, Powwow; Best Standard: Powwow, **Steven Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Pueblo, Candy Swirls; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Moon Bright, Ness' Mini Sota, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Morgan Simmons**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Playmate, Definitely Darryl, Sassy Shirley; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Janice Bruns**. Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Harold Appleton**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Suzie', **Anna Jean Landgren**.

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Barbados, Optimara Tradition, Optimara Haiti, **Joyce Stenger**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Red Bandito, Hector; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust, **Patricia Tillman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hector, Pat Champagne, White Dew, **Richard Nicholas**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Candy

Fountain, **Marge Savage**. Best Standard: Harbor Blue, **Mary Saunders**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Bill Johnson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Nancy Goss**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Riko'; Best Design, **Delores Gibbs**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Moore**.

MID-AMERICA AVS, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Annabelle, Hoot-n-toot; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Winnergreen, Rob's Fiddlesticks, **Sue Hill**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ray's Coral Dawn, Ultra Blue Ray's, Aca's Eye Knees, **Raymond Russell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Boo Man, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Gleeeful Elf; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Laverder Rosette'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Melodie Mia, **Sue Knobbe**.

NEW YORK STATE AVS, INC., NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Caltanissetta, B-Man's Delia, Perhaps Love; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Von's Small Gift; Best Standard: B-Man's Caltanissetta; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bruno Curcurato**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Ontario, Party Print, Suncoast Paisley Print; Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Aquarius, Magic Blue, Precious Pink, **George McDonald**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Perfect Peach, **Rob's Mini-o-lets**. Best Miniature: Dawn Michelle, **Robert McCabe**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Edward Bradford**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.

NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, AR - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Happy Cricket, Ness' Glitter Lace, Evangeline; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's Wine Drops, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Mad Cat; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Deer Trail; Best Standard: Evangeline; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alice Brown**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Skies, Ness' Firefly, Little Jim; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Mike's Lilac Time', **Martha Walker**. Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants, **Linda Harkenreader**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell**.

OAKVILLE AVS, ONTARIO - Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Ramses; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eva Lindstol**. Best Semiminiature: Pay Dirt, **Eileen Filman**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'New York', **Rita McPhail**. Design Sweepstakes, **Josephina Fitzwilliam**.

OHIO STATE AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maggie Lee, Ocean Eyes, True Blue Miracle, **Pat Hancock**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Time Bandit, Emperor, **Janice Carr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi

Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Rob's Twinkle Pink, Rob's June Bug; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Pink Puff, **Betty Schulz**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Jewel Box; Best Trailer: Darling Blue Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design' Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Black**. Best Semiminiature: Motley Crew, **Doris Brownlie**. Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Elaine Gordon**.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mikado Red, Grandmother's Halo, Sister Ancilla; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Precious Pink, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mikado Red; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best in Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cathy Cornibe**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: San Mateo Blues, Miss Santa Cruz, San Mateo; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: School Bells, Cathy's Fireworks, Little James, **Al Cornibe**. Design Sweepstakes, **Heather Morgan**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: First Child, Flash Fire, Ode to Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show: First Child; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey, **Arlene Pappas**. Best Trailer: Sante Fe Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn', **Leslie Cox**. Best Design, **Barbara Burde**.

TRI-STATE AV COUNCIL, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Oklahoma, Rhapsodie Fenja, Optimara Van Gogh, **Rhona Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Picturesque, Yasuyo; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Red Bandito, Rob's Boondoggle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Dust Storm, Fantastic Fantasy; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Perk Up, **Joe Palagonia**. Best Standard: The Alps; Best Semiminiature: Pixie Grin; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* **Punter #7**, **Carol Ann Burrell**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearilifolia*, **Edward Bradford**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Lela Marie, Fantasy Maker; Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Eric West**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Snake Charmer, **Nancy Braun**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Kev's Meteor Shower; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Robertson, **Kevin Degner**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Meredith Roe**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Pink Threat', **Fay Skews**. Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**.

A MODERN IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT "DAVE'S VIOLETS"

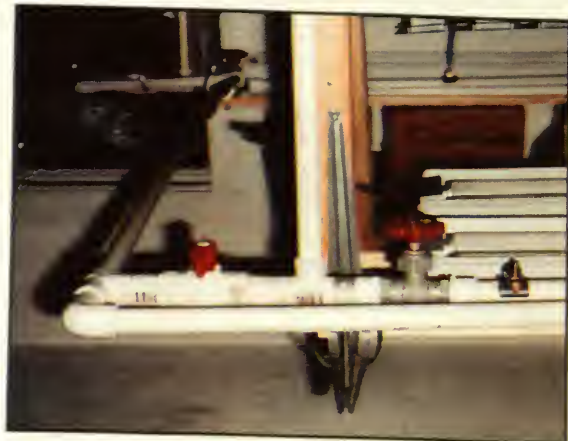
by David Harris • Springfield, MO



Plant room - Getting ready for the annual Mother's Day Sale.



Plant room - Overview of irrigation system set-up.



Master valve - Standard valve and brass micro valve set up.



Tub set-up with hot and cold water, the pump and switch on the wall.



Valve and saddle choices. I chose the center set as the long barrel on the saddle on the left would leave water in the line.

From the beginning of my African violet operation I knew there must be a simple, comprehensive way of watering and fertilizing my plants. I started carrying two-liter bottles and progressed to running the hose I use to flush and fill my aquarium (At one time I raised and sold tropical fish and I still have some of the equipment I used—including the fill hose which connects to the kitchen faucet with an adapter).

Then I had my garage converted to a mini greenhouse. The plant room is adjacent to the breezeway between the kitchen and my former garage. Prior to the conversion, I raised most of my plants in the breezeway. I now use the breezeway for propagation and grooming my show plants. The garage was adapted by installing a new floor and three stands—rows of shelves. Each row has five levels. Two stands are along the opposite walls and the third is down the center.

As I started filling the shelves with violets I realized that I was spending valuable time watering plants when I could have been propagating and repotting, etc. As I sought an easier and faster way to irrigate, I had the idea of using the materials I had used in raising tropical fish to speed up the watering process—instead of pumping air into the fish tanks, I could pump water and fertilizer to the fifteen shelves (155 multi-plant trays).

First step was to install a laundry tub in the plant room and plumb it with hot and cold water lines from the house. The next step was to place a submersible centrifugal pump in the tub—it is powered from a switched electric outlet next to the tub.

Next, I ran 1/2" pvc pipe to each of the shelves from the tub. To control the water/fertilizer to each individual tray, I needed a series of three types of valves: a master ball valve to control the supply to each stand; a standard stem valve to control the flow to each shelf; and a brass micro valve with clear 1/4" vinyl drip tubes to each of the trays. The brass micro valves were inserted into plastic saddles which were installed in the pvc pipe and located above each tray. The drip

tubes are the same as I used to pump air into my fish tanks.

With this system it is possible to service each of the three stands (one stand at a time—stand one, forty-five trays; stand two forty-five trays; and stand three sixty-five trays) in four to five minutes. This system enables me to control the flow to all trays simultaneously or even one tray exclusively and to balance the flow so that each full tray receives an appropriate (usually forty ounces) amount of solution. Partially loaded trays receive proportionately less solution. Therefore it is possible to service every tray in each stand simultaneously—or just a single tray. It is also possible to selectively irrigate fifty-six multi-plant trays on all three stands simultaneously with forty ounces of solution each (approximately seventeen and a half gallons). Prior to irrigating, the water/fertilizer solution is mixed in the tub which is filled to the 20-gallon mark.

I have considered several other watering systems—the water pressure reducing system used in some greenhouses, the emitter system which used several emitter sizes (because the emitters are not adjustable) to equalize the flow, and other less desirable systems.

The system I decided to use is very simple and infinitely adjustable. The total cost was quite reasonable because it utilizes all off-the-shelf parts. Whereas other systems would have cost nearly \$1,200, this system cost an economical \$700.

My desire is to constantly upgrade my operation—to minimize tedious, repetitive operations and to devote the time saved to work on improving the quality as well as the quantity and variety of my African violet stock.

I would like to thank the commercial growers and hobbyists for their interest and to share this description of my irrigation system with you. If I can supply any more information, please contact me at e-mail plantman@cmaster.com or:

David Harris

1372 S. Kentwood Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65804-0220



Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue

Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from September 30, 1998 - November 30, 1998

MKO Dynamite Club, Joplin, MO	\$25.00	Conrad N. Nelson, Minneapolis, MN	\$2.00	Seattle AVS, Seattle, WA	\$25.00
Bergen County AVS, Hackensack, NJ	25.00	Jo Rivard, Suisun City, CA	7.00	<i>In memory of long time SAV member</i>	
AVSA 1998 Sacramento Convention Fund	200.00	Annie Belle Perry, Trenton, NJ	10.00	<i>Darlene Hascoolidge</i>	
Ohio State AVS, Columbus, OH	100.00	Janet Mischler, Chugiak, AK	2.00	Shirley Liu Fong, Burlington, MA	5.00
San Jacquin AVS, Stockton, CA	15.00	Joan Baker, Thief River Falls, MN	2.00	Bea Sumrow, Camarillo, CA	5.00
Northern CA Council of AVS	25.00	C. Timothy Featherston, Webster, TX	2.00	Barbara D. Perrott, Newburg, NY	2.00
Hudson Highlands AVS, Cornwall, NY	25.00	Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN	10.00	Papathi D/O Marimoto, Singapore	10.00
<i>In lieu of speaker's expenses for Karyn Cichocki</i>		Louisiana Council of AV Judges & Growers,		Mike Lovell, San Antonio, TX	2.00
<i>Tennessee Valley AV Club, Knoxville, TN</i>		New Roads, LA	25.00	Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, NJ	5.00
<i>From the disbanded Tennessee Valley AV Club</i>		Tampa AVS, Tampa, FL	25.00	Elizabeth Warren, Cambridge, MA	25.00
<i>to continue on in our tradition of our love of</i>		<i>In memory of Duncan S. Ritchie</i>		Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY	5.00
<i>African Violets</i>		Carla Yambert, Murray, KY	7.00	John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	3.00
Lois E. Fox, Champaign, IL	5.00	Stacey H. Gianoplos, Oak Park, MI	10.00	First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	25.00
Joan Porter, Fairfax, VA	5.00	Bellflower AVS, Long Beach, CA	10.00	First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC	25.00
Derald Richards, Jr., Eagle Creek, OR	1.00	<i>In memory of Isabelle Hockney</i>		<i>In honor of Porter Temple</i>	
Stephen Maruszak, Westport, CT	1.00	The Hoosier AVS, Chicago, IL	10.00	Howard A. Ray, Niskayuna, NY	7.00
Marie Rafferty, Brookmell, PA	2.00	<i>In memory of Helen Mitchell</i>			

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton

622 Riverside Drive

St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from
October 1, 1998 - November 30, 1998

Ms. Joanie Sleeper, Wichita Falls, TX	\$15.34
Ms. Bea Sumrow, Camarillo, CA	5.00
Ms. Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Tulsa, OK	2.00
Ms. Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, N.J.	5.00
Ms. Tamie Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan	4.50
Ms. Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY	3.00
Mr. Jack Record, North Bay, NY	12.00
Ms. Diane Adamo, Long Beach, NY	7.00
Mr. John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA	3.00
Windsor African Violet Society, Hartford, CT	15.00
<i>In lieu of speaker fee to Roger Wheeler</i>	
Dunlap Enterprises, Hillsboro, MO	25.00
Central Jersey African Violet Society, Fords, NJ	10.00
Ms. Joyce C. Williams, Bartlesville, OK	2.00
Sweet Water African Violet Society, East Islip, NY	10.00
Chun Miao Yeh, Taipei, Taiwan	5.00
Ms. Elizabeth Burke, New Providence, NJ	5.00
Total	\$128.84

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive

Levittown, PA 19057

Contribution from 1 October to 30 November

Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL	\$10.00
Ohio State AVS, OH	50.00
Rocky Mountain AV Council, CO	26.00
<i>AVSA \$1.00 rebate per new member for</i>	
<i>obtaining the most new AVSA members</i>	
Annie Belle Perry, Trenton, NJ	10.00
Felicia Throop, San Diego, CA	20.00
Janet Mischer, Chugiak, AK	2.00
Yoko Hachisu, Tokyo, Japan	20.00
Virginia L. Humes, Cordova, AK	10.00
Ivonne Hermosilla, Concepcion, Chile, SA	3.50
Lucinda Muni, Wyckoff, NJ	5.00
Papathi D/O Marimoto, Singapore	10.00
John D. Sullivan, Danville, MD	3.00
Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	5.00
Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY	3.00
Anita Harold, Tucson, AZ	10.00
Anonymous, New York, NY	12.00
Rocky Mountain AV Council, CO	25.00
<i>In fond memory of Katherine Brago. She was always</i>	
<i>eager to share her knowledge, her plants, her time and</i>	
<i>her energy with all.</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Islip, NY	10.00
Chun Miao Yeh, Taipei, Taiwan	5.00
Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	10.00

Total: \$249.50

Be Aware!

by Lola Rossi
San Mateo, CA

1997-1998 was a disaster for my African violet collection! While I have been aware that over-fertilizing when the soil is not acid enough can seriously damage African violets, and that adding a drop or two of vinegar to my water when this happens will most often straighten out my plants, I ran into a totally new problem.

I often read the labels of my violet fertilizers because I try to give high nitrogen to baby plants and then when I feel they are ready to bloom, I switch to 'bloom' food. And though I am fussy about my plant soil and have found a lot of commercial African violet soils to be too heavy and with too many water-retention problems, I will purchase a new variety if it looks moist and soft through the plastic bag and especially if it is produced by a well-known company. However, I have never stopped long enough to read any of the material on the labeling of the packages as to what the ingredients are.

Unfortunately, for me and my violets, sometime last year my local stores carrying planting mixtures and soils started carrying a new product - both labeled for African violets and as regular planting mix for any plants. This soil is produced by a very well-known and dependable company (they shall remain nameless because I do feel their products in general are excellent). Since the soil looked wonderful through the plastic package, I quickly purchased several, added some of my own peat moss, sterilized the soil mixture as I normally do and then proceeded to plant some of my new baby seedlings and also repot any older plants that needed it, in this new soil.

Most of my babies failed and the few that did survive are not doing well at all. All of my established, mature plants started 'bunching' up in the centers and I have not had any blooms all this year.

When I saw the centers start to bunch up, I started adding a few drops of vinegar to my water each week and I saved most of my mature plants. However, I continued to fertilize each week, and the plants have just 'sat there' and refused to bloom. I gave them extra light and warmth - nothing worked.

Then one day as I was purchasing a new supply of what had become my favorite violet soil, my eye caught on

some numbers on the front of the package and I stopped short and read all the labeling. I then realized that the colored specs I had noticed in my soil were in fact fertilizer. That meant, that the slow-release fertilizer that came with my soil and the fertilizer which I was giving each week were WAY TOO MUCH for healthy, normal, blooming plants! As reality dawned, I was sure that was what had been wrong with my plants.

I then sent for a large supply of Optimara violet soil from The Selective Gardner (see ad in your African Violet Magazine) as this soil, which I have had in the past and which is just wonderful, is apparently not available in the San Francisco Bay Area where I live. I also ordered a supply of Optimara fertilizer inasmuch as almost 100% of the fertilizers available in this area (I read all the labels these days) have various amounts of nitrogen derived from urea. Violets apparently do not like urea of any kind, and the Optimara fertilizer is advertised as being absolutely urea-free.

At any rate, I waited for my new fertilizer to arrive from the Selective Gardner and I repotted all my violets as I had time, in my new Optimara soil (with no fertilizer) in order to encourage my mature violets to start blooming. I feared that the time-release feature in the other soil would affect them for months to come.

Last year I redid my kitchen and since I have a lovely area behind my corner sink which is perfect for a small wrought-iron stand which can house 4 violets (it receives a lot of light and warmth from a window just above the area), I like to have some violets in bloom on this stand. This makes my new kitchen look that much prettier. Well, with my above problems, I just didn't have a thing to place there. I have been purchasing pretty Optimara violets in full bloom from my local garden center the past few months in order to always have blooming plants in the kitchen, and now I fear that my collection is getting too large to house properly!

I would caution all of you growers to read the labeling on what you purchase and aim for soils free of time-release fertilizer and fertilizers free as possible of nitrogen produced from urea, as you could well develop some of the problems this writer has experienced.

Happy Growing!

rowing African Violets *Deep in the Heart of Texas*

My wife, Jan, has been growing African violets for over thirty years. Since I was in the military, we traveled and moved numerous times before I retired in July, 1990, with twenty-plus years. It was hard to grow plants knowing we would be moving on in two to three years. We moved over sixteen times in twenty-plus years. Jan was very determined, though, and always had a few African violets.

While stationed in Taif, Saudi Arabia, we were on vacation in Germany to drop our daughter off in Munich to go to college. My wife did not have any African violets in our villa (home) back in Taif. She saw a small African violet plant in the dead of winter and purchased it. We traveled around Germany, for the next week to ten days and she had to carry this plant with her every place we went, for it was too cold to leave in the car. She carried it back into Saudi aboard military aircraft in a small potato chip container. She raised this plant with its babies, and when we received orders to return to the USA she gave her collection of plants and babies to the wives of some of the Saudi officers and some of the civilian women.

On return to the USA, I was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. Jan read in the local newspaper about an African violet show and sale sponsored by Cen-Tex Rainbow AVS. She had to attend the show to purchase African violets since she was not able to bring plants with us from Saudi Arabia. She attended the show, met the wonderful members and joined their club. Jan was later introduced to a very lovely lady whose plants she happened to be growing. This lady was a judge at the show and after the show Jan talked about how she hybridized the most perfect small plants. Jan was already into growing African violets, but this person hooked her for life. Hortense Pittman was the wonderful lady and the perfect plant was 'Precious Pink'.

I built her first plant stand - a four tier, four foot PVC stand with shop lights. That one plant stand grew to two, then three stands and had to have Volkmann light fixtures. The light tubes had to be changed from cool white to Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, which we still use today.

After I retired from the military in Fort Hood, we moved to the Dallas metroplex, but lived approximately 50 miles out in the country. Jan was given the telephone

number of a couple who lived in Mesquite, Texas, who could assist her in locating a club. Through the kindness of Paula and Bill Foster, she became a member of the Alpha AVS of Dallas.

Since we lived so far away from the meeting place, I attended with her because she wouldn't get home until late. Then, I started getting interested and involved in African violets. I joined the club and followed my wife into the world of growing, showing and judging African violets. Jan is a senior judge and I'm an advanced judge. We are both Life Members of AVSA.

Our area required for growing African violets increased, and we now have a plant room and additional plant stands in the bedrooms. We also grow *Saintpaulia* species, gesneriads and do some designs. My design capability is very limited, but Jan does all designs (Interpretive Flower/Plant Arrangements and Containers Gardens). We have both received the tri-color for Best in Design and she has received the tri-color for Best in Show - Horticulture.

We attend local affiliate shows, Lone Star African Violet Council shows/conventions, Dixie African Violet shows/conventions and AVSA shows/conventions. We have both served as president and show chairman for our local affiliates and show chairman for the Lone Star African Violet Council show. But our main love is growing African violets.

We feel the important factors in growing show plants are:

- Selection of the plant
- Growing conditions
- Grooming

We try to select both proven winners and new hybrid plants. We always check the winner's lists and best varieties lists from the AVM to possibly add to our collection. Then we check out the new hybrids from the hybridizer's lists each year. We have always loved the Pittman's small plants and are growing some small new plants from Dean's in San Antonio and Kyle Coleman in Fort Worth. These appear to have a lot of potential for a show plant. We also grow new ones from Lyon's, Rob's and Ness' to name a few, but being Texans, we support our local hybridizers.

The main reason to support hybridizers is that these people are the future of African violets and need the members of AVSA to buy and promote their plants. If we do not support our hybridizers, they will not be able produce new varieties for future growing.

In selecting a new plant, the foliage should have an even growth pattern with each row of leaves overlapping the prior row. Ensure there are no gaps or spaces between the leaves. The bloom stalks should have an abundance of blossoms and stand up over the foliage as an even 'halo'. Ensure that the plant is growing true to the description from the hybridizer's list or the AVSA Master Variety List. The plant should be free of pests and disease.

Your own growing conditions will depend upon your maintaining a consistent, established location for your plants. You need to establish the temperature, light time, feeding and repotting schedule. This location is the high-light of your home. We have a room off our family room, an enclosed patio with its own air conditioner system for the hot summers of Texas. We try to maintain a temperature of approximately 70° to 75° the year around.

We have five plant stands with mainly Volkmann light fixtures in the plant room. We use individual wick reservoirs for most of our plants with some larger plants in Swift's Moist-Rite planters. The lights are on timers and are on approximately eight hours daily, and up to twelve during the final weeks before a show. We never increase or decrease the lights more than one hour per week. We change out the tubes when they burn out and never add two new tubes at the same time. We normally use Gro-LUX wide spectrum tubes.

Peter's Fertilizer is used, (20 - 20 - 20) as a constant feeder, (we have a supply of the older Peter's with less urea nitrogen) and a bloom booster fertilizer before the show. We normally like to try it out on a new variety prior to show time, because on some plants it does not produce the desired effects. You should never try somebody else's methods until you have checked them out on just a few of your own plants. Sometimes, somebody else's growing conditions are different, therefore, you do not get the same results.

We try to repot the plants selected for show every four to five months, using Bill Foster's African violet mix. This mixture is very good for this area of Texas. We recommend that you try some of his African violet mix on a few of your plants.

Bill Foster's Soil Recipe

12 gallons Sunshine peat moss
6 gallons perlite
6 gallons vermiculite (Bill prefers the coarse vermiculite)
1 gallon Baccto potting soil
approximately 1 cup dolomite

Bill uses a cement mixer as his "blender" and mixes in large quantities because he doesn't like to get dirty! He usually mixes 100 gallons at a time and stores it in large covered plastic garbage cans.

Our small plants are normally in 2 1/8" or 2 1/4" pots with a wick watering system. We have purchased some Oyama self-watering pots for the small plants, but do not have enough experience yet to comment. We like to try different methods to find a system that will take the work out of growing. (We're still looking for that system.)

Grooming is always a never-ending task in growing African violets for show. We start with a young plant, or a plant that is broken back after a show. I have been showing the same 'Snuggles' for over five years. It has won the Best in Class at local, state and national shows. It is one of my favorites and was given to me by a club member when I joined the club. I just break it down after each show and start over. Ensure that the plants are centered in the pot and below the lip of the pot. I like to plant down so I may remove a row of leaves before the show to improve on the symmetry of the foliage. Then I can put a small amount of soil around the neck where the leaves are removed.

Each time we water the plants, I turn the plant foliage approximately 1/3 of the way around. This helps to ensure it is getting the necessary and same light. I remove any damaged or bad leaves at this time. The plant is allowed to bloom once to ensure it is blooming true, then the show plants are disbudded. The plants remain disbudded until five to seven weeks before the show, depending on how long it will take to maximize show potential for each plant. Each of our show plants will have a leaf support. If the symmetry needs some improvement, we will place a small stick into the soil and against the leaf stalk to close a gap. After a few weeks the stick can be removed and the gap is usually gone or smaller. We have placed a wire tie-down into the soil, over a leaf stalk to assist in holding the leaf down when it wants to stick up. We clean and brush the foliage to ensure the leaves are free of dust, as they do better if they are clean.

We enjoy growing African violets and making lifetime friends with the members of AVSA. We look forward each year to the Lone Star and AVSA convention and have a great time at the different locations. See you all in Houston! Wear your boots and hats, be a true Texan!



SOIL MEALYBUGS AND THEIR CLOSE FRIENDS, THIRPS AND CYCLAMEN MITES

by Pat Hancock
West Chester, OH

The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," should always be our motto when growing African violets.

It is so much easier to prevent a problem from happening than it is to cure the problem after the fact. You may think this one little plant looks fine and couldn't possibly have anything wrong with it, and a month later discover sadly that you were wrong and now every plant within a mile of that little plant looks sick.

There are three preventative measures that I would like to recommend to you.

1) Sterilize all soil products in an oven or microwave. Moisten soil and cover so that steam escapes. In a conventional oven, heat to 180° internal temperature.

2) Isolate any new plant material, including leaves, for at least two months. Use plastic bags, clear boxes, etc.

3) When bringing plants home from a show, disbud COMPLETELY, and do not return them to your plant room for at least two months.

If you follow these three precautions, your chances of keeping a happy and safe environment for your plants will be greatly increased.

If you fail to do one or more of these things, chances are you will one day have a problem with one or more of the three most common African violet pests; Soil Mealybugs, Thrips, or Cyclamen Mites. Once you have one of these pests, they can go through your collection in record time.

Assuming you have failed to follow one or more of these precautions and you now have soil mealybugs in some of your plants, what is the best thing to do?

1) If you do not need the plant, you can take a leaf, wash it in a solution of 1 part Clorox to 30 parts of water plus a few drops of a dish detergent. Plant it into sterile soil and throw the old plant with the soil, away.

2) If it is a plant that you feel you cannot live without,

my best plan of attack is as follows: Knock the plant out of the pot and clean all of the soil from the roots. In most cases, there won't be very many roots, only a few brown ones at best. Take off the bottom row of leaves and clean the neck of old crust. Lay the plant on a sheet of newspaper and spray the roots on all sides with PT1300 (Orthene). Be sure to turn as you spray until all sides of the root ball have been sprayed. Let air-dry for 10 to 15 minutes and replant in sterile soil. Place in a greenhouse environment for two to three weeks. Sounds like a lot of trouble, but worth it if you have an infected plant that you just can't bear to lose. Be sure to wear plastic gloves and follow directions on the PT1300 spray can.

3) The other alternative is to use one of the systemic insecticides that are now on the market. Bear in mind that anything you put in your soil to kill mealybugs could also make you very sick if you don't take proper precautions. It is very easy to get careless with insecticides after you have been using them for awhile. Some of the ones that seem to work well are Diazinon, Enstar II, Pinpoint, and Thiodan. A new and very expensive one called Marathon is said to be very good by some who have tried it.

It is my feeling that any of these if used for any length of time may also damage the plants. If it is your choice to use any of the systemics, be sure to read carefully all of the precautions on the label and follow them for as long as you use the product.

The second pest that is often picked up at shows or from plants in your yard is thrips. It is said that it takes only one thrips to multiply and I believe it. Here again, prevention is best, and the reason we disbud after a show is to avoid them hitch-hiking home with us. However, they can hide in places other than the blossoms and you should still isolate for two months after a show.

If you find that your prevention methods have failed and you do have thrips on your plants, what are your choices?

1) The first thing is to disbud every bud and blossom from every plant in the area. Thrips feed on pollen and

cannot live forever without it. Be sure to get even the tiniest of buds.

2) You do need to spray your plants, being very careful to wear a mask, gloves, etc.. PT1300 is my choice (Orthene). Bill Foster recommended in this magazine that we should spray the inside of our show boxes with Orthene before going to a show, then put the plant in and close the box. This practice, if followed by everyone, could greatly reduce the chances of picking them up at a show. There are other sprays that will kill thrips, but most will also damage the blossoms. PT1300 does not damage the blossoms. Several of the aforementioned systemics will kill thrips as well as soil mealybugs, but again, be very careful if you choose to use them.

The third most prevalent violet enemy is the Cyclamen mite. They are extremely contagious and can ride into your

home on your clothes. They are found in backyards, garden stores, violet shows, and again, prevention is by far the best choice. Do not go into your violet room in clothes that you have worn outside around other plants. Isolate any plants that you might bring in from outdoors for the winter. If you find tight centers and strange center growth, chances are you may have picked up Cyclamen mites. My first choice to get rid of this pest is, Avid sprayed once every five days for about one month. There are other things you might use, but most are more toxic to plants and humans and Avid really does the trick if you use it according to directions.

These are the three most common pests and the ways I would choose to deal with them. I'm sure there are other ways that others may choose, but always bear in mind that most of us are growing violets in our homes where our families live. There can be severe consequences if we are not very careful. ALWAYS think "PREVENTION" first!



Ah, Youth!

by Barbara Elkin
Auburn, CA

I have often said that "I would not want to raise children at this time", with all the negatives they must contend with: drugs, gang wars, drive-by shootings, alcohol and promiscuity. Children just don't have a chance to grow up healthy and wholesome anymore.

I am afraid I'll have to change that thought just a bit and introduce you to Heath and Heather Borck.

These are the two children of Byron and Elizabeth Borck of Santa Rosa, California. You might remember this family as Byron was my Vice-Convention Chair last April at the AVSA Sacramento Convention. Heath and Heather were, in fact, my legs. Without these two, I am afraid I would have had a time hoofing it to and from the hotel. For those of you who didn't attend, the hotel was spread out *all over the place*.

Last November, I had the opportunity to have these two youngsters in my Judging School Class given in Pittsburg, California. Both passed with high grades. (The lowest grade for this school was 92). Well, lots of students pass with high grades, but what makes these two any different? Heather is

eleven and Heath is twelve! That's a big difference as far as I am concerned.

I checked with Bill Foster, AVSA Shows and Judges Chairman, and as far as he can tell, these two are the youngest to ever take and pass an AVSA Judging School. I am not surprised at this though; they have both entered in the collection classes and won. How often do you see two children this age win best collection or best in show? Yes, they do both. Heather's expertise is minis and semis, Heath thinks more of the trailers and gesneriads.

Now a year later, I have given another class here in Sacramento. These two fine children took a refresher course. What's new about that? Their grades were even higher than they were last year.

My hat is off to Byron and Elizabeth for raising two wonderful and gifted children. There is also something else to remember: in due time AVSA will be in the hands of our younger members. I am not even the least bit worried if all the hands are as good as these two.

Coming Events



March 5 & 6 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVC Show
Beardall Senior Center
800 S Delaney Ave
Orlando, FL
Mar 5 - noon - 4pm
Mar 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Evelyn Briggs (407) 322 - 1409

March 6 & 7 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS
ElCon Mall
E. Broadway @ Swan
Tucson, AZ
Mar 6 - 9am - 9pm
Mar 7 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Cindy Baker (520) 325 - 0752

March 6 & 7 - ALABAMA

Capital City AVS
Southern Homes & Gardens
Hwy 231 North
Montgomery, AL
March 6 - 2pm - 5pm
March 7 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Barbara Strock (334) 567 - 6811

March 6 & 7 - LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge AVS Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA
Mar 6 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 7 - 11am - 3pm
Info: (225) 928 - 2270

March 11 - 13 - TEXAS

First Dallas AVS,
Alpha AVS and First Nighter AVS
Combined Show/Sale
Richardson Square Mall
Beltline & Plano Rd
Richardson, TX
Sale - All Days - 10am - 9pm
Show - Mar 12 - noon - 9pm
Mar 13 - 10am - 9pm
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

March 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
Mar 13 - noon - 4:30pm
Mar 14 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Ralph Breden (310) 373 - 5697

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC of Spring Hill
6th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Hernando Community Blood Bank
Rt 50 (Cortez Blvd)
Spring Hill, FL
Mar 13 - 11am - 6pm
Mar 14 - noon - 3pm
Info: Linda Nelson (352) 799 - 0973

March 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA

Central CA AVS Display/Sale
Manchester Mall
1901 E Shields Ave
Fresno, CA
Mar 13 - 9am - 3pm
Mar 14 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Stanley Barnes (559) 294 - 8650

March 13 & 14 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola Annual Show/Sale
Scottish Rite Bldg
2 E. Wright St
Pensacola, FL
Mar 13 - 2pm - 6pm
Mar 14 - noon - 5pm
Info: Sarah Richardson (850) 968 - 1115

March 19 - 21 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Co. Rd. B & Snelling
Roseville, MN
Mar 19 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 20 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 21 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Robert Aurandt (651) 771-9948

March 19 & 20 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS Judged Show/Sale
The Church of the Brethren
2175 Bonita Ave
LaVerne, CA
Mar 19 - 1pm - 6pm
Mar 20 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Marilyn McQuown (909) 672-7353

March 19 & 20

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale
Erwin Hall, First Presbyterian Church
1114 W University Dr
Denton, TX
Mar 19 - 1:30pm - 7pm
Mar 20 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Eunice Curry (940) 382-6465

March 20 & 21 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain AVC
Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York St
Denver, CO
Mar 20 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Mar 21 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nelly Levine (303) 423 - 6072

March 20 & 21 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show
Zilker Park Club House
Zilker Park
Austin, TX
Both Days: 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Jeanette Pursley (512) 243 - 2289

March 20 & 21 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS
24th Annual Judged Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Dept. Hall
Montauk Hwy & Atlantic Ave
West Sayville, NY
Mar 20 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 21 - noon - 5pm
Info: (516) 581 - 8116

March 26 & 27 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Show/Sale
Memphis Botanic Garden
750 Cherry Rd
Memphis, TN
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Judy Ellis (901) 377 - 9116
Brenda Brasfield (601) 895 - 2002

March 26 - 28 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale
Maplewood Mall
Hwy 694 & White Bear Ave
St. Paul, MN
Mar 26 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 27 - 9:30am - 8pm
Mar 28 - noon - 6pm
Info: (612) 571 - 6703

March 26 & 27 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Show/Sale
East Park Plaza Mall
220 N 66th St
Lincoln, NE
Mar 26 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 27 - 10am - 5pm

March 26 & 27 - NEW JERSEY

Union County AVS Exhibit/Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church
559 Park Ave
Scotch Plains, NJ
Mar 26 - 6pm - 9pm
Mar 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

March 27 - DELAWARE

Delaware AVS Show/Sale
Bosco's Auditorium in the Concord Mall
Rt. 202
Wilmington, DE
Hours: 10am - 8pm
Info: Anne Petrucci (302) 652 - 8839
Angie Celano (302) 994 - 4556

March 27 & 28 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake-Cook Road & Edens Expressway
Glencoe, IL
Mar 27 - noon - 4pm
Mar 28 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Nancy Maybloom (847) 882 - 4652
email: hsmay@aol.com

March 27 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Judged Show
Windsor Public Library
323 Broad St
Windsor, CT
Hours: 9am - 3pm
Info: Vivian Hiltz (860) 828 - 7979



March 27 & 28 - LOUISIANA

Jefferson AV Association (JAVA)
 AVSA Standard Show
 Lakeside Shopping Center
 3301 Veterans Blvd
 (corner Veterans & Causeway)
 Metairie, LA
 Mar 27 - 2pm - 9pm
 Mar 28 - noon - 6pm

March 27 & 28 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS 45th Annual Show
 John A. Anderson Recreation Center
 111 North Oceanside Road
 Rockville Centre, NY
 Mar 27 - 2pm - 5pm
 Mar 28 - noon - 5pm
 Info: Marilyn Daum (516) 379 - 6211

March 27 & 28 - FLORIDA

Gulf AV Club Show/Sale
 Ft Myers/Lee County Garden Council Bldg.
 2646 Cleveland Ave
 Ft. Myers, FL
 Mar 27 - 9am - 6pm
 Mar 28 - 9am - 5pm
 Info: Eleanor Duerr (941) 574 - 2489
 Blanche Foltz (941) 772 - 1056

March 27 & 28 - IOWA

Quad Cities AVS Show/Sale
 Duck Creek plaza
 Bettendorf, IA
 Info: Jackie Jones (319) 785 - 6024
 email: momjones@netins.net

March 31 - CALIFORNIA

Town & Country AVS Open House
 Church of Christ
 1000 Roosevelt Rd
 Redlands, CA
 Hours: 10am - 5pm
 Info: Rosita Roser (909) 794 - 3696

April 2 & 3 - NORTH CAROLINA

Green Thumb AVS Easter Sale
 Tarrytown Mall
 301 Bypass & Business 64
 Rocky Mount, NC
 Both Days: 10am - 7pm
 Info: Lucille Prutzman (252) 459 - 3722

April 3 & 4 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
 Matthaei Botanical Gardens
 1800 Dixboro Rd
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Apr 3 - 10am - 4:30pm
 Apr 4 - 11am - 2pm
 Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

April 3 & 4 - TEXAS

Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC
 15th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
 Conder Park, Special Olympics Bldg
 902 Conder St
 Killeen, TX
 Apr 3 - 3pm - 5pm
 Apr 4 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Nancy Sneed (254) 542 - 1352

April 10 & 11 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County AVSA Show/Plant Sale
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum
 Joseph Haggerty Center
 51 East Hanover Ave
 Morristown, NJ
 Apr 10 - 1:30pm - 5pm
 Apr 11 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464 - 4417
 Roy Goebel (973) 361 - 7689

April 15 - 17 - TENNESSEE

Bluff City AVC Show/Sale
 Oak Court Mall
 Poplar Ave
 Memphis, TN
 Mar 15 - 4pm - 9pm
 Mar 16 - 10pm - 9pm
 Mar 17 - 10am - 5pm
 Info: Marian Zoller (901) 372 - 0283
 Kathy Hildebrand (901) 386 - 0210

April 16 & 17 - SOUTH CAROLINA

First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
 Foothills Mall
 I-26 & New Cut Rd
 Spartanburg, SC
 Apr 16 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 17 - 10am - until sold out
 Info: Jessie Dennis (864) 578 - 1165

April 16 & 17 - NEW JERSEY

Bergen County AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Old North Reformed Church
 Washington & Madison Aves
 Dumont, NJ
 Apr 16 - 3pm - 9pm
 Apr 17 - 9am - 3pm
 Info: Joe DeSimon (201) 261 - 4215

April 16 & 17 - NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey AVS Judged Show/Sale
 First Baptist Church
 232 Main St (Rt 79)
 Matawan, NJ
 Apr 16 - 3pm - 8pm
 Apr 17 - 9:30am - 4pm
 Info: (609) 298 - 7333

April 17 - MISSOURI

Heart of Missouri AVS Annual Show/Sale
 Trinity Presbyterian Church
 Rollins & Manor Dr
 Columbia, MO
 Hours: 9am - 3pm

April 17 & 18 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC 31st Annual Show
 Albuquerque Garden Center
 10120 Lomas Blvd NE
 Albuquerque, NM
 Apr 17 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 18 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026

April 17 - CANADA

Vancouver AVC Annual Show/Sale
 Van Dusen Gardens, Floral Hall
 Oak St and 37th Ave
 Vancouver, BC, Canada
 Hours: 1pm - 4pm
 Admission \$2

April 17 & 18 - IOWA

Evening AVC of Des Moines Show
 Des Moines Botanical Center
 Apr 17 - 10am - 5pm
 Apr 18 - 10am - 3pm
 Info: Kathy Mathews (515) 674 - 4025
 email: blkbelk@aol.com

April 17 & 18 - NEW YORK

AVS of Western NY
 47th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
 Walden Galleria Mall
 Galleria Dr
 Buffalo, NY
 Apr 17 - 8am - 9pm
 Apr 18 - Noon - 5pm
 Info: Fred Packer (716) 833-4504

April 17 & 18 - NEVADA

Reno-Sparks AVS Judged Show/Sale
 Old Town Mall
 S Virginia & Peckham Ln
 Reno, NV
 Apr 17 - 10am - 6pm
 Apr 18 - noon - 5pm
 Info: Diana Thran (702) 358 - 5689

April 17 & 18 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Show/Sale
 Towne Mall
 Exit Rt. 122 off I 75
 Dayton, OH
 Info: Pat Hancock (513) 777 - 2524

April 23 & 24 - WISCONSIN

Late Bloomers AVS Show/Sale
 Janesville Mall
 2500 Melton Ave (Hwy 26)
 Janesville, WI
 Both Days: 10am - 9pm
 Info: Mable Lewis (608) 966 - 3853

April 23 & 24 - NEW YORK

New York City AVS
 Horticultural Society of NY
 128 W 58th St
 New York, NY
 Apr 23 - 2pm - 7 pm
 Apr 24 - 11am - 5 pm

April 23 - 25 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale
 Northtown Mall
 Hwy 10 & University Ave NE
 Blaine, MN
 Mall Hours
 Info: Barbara Werness (612) 754 - 3918

April 23 & 24 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas, First Nighter AVS of Dallas
 and Alpha AVS of Dallas Joint Display/Sale
 Plano Market Mall (Garden Ridge)
 Ave K @ Spring Creek Pkwy
 Richardson, TX
 Apr 23 - 10am - 9pm
 Apr 24 - 10am - 6pm
 Info: (972) 278 - 0389

April 24 & 25 - CANADA

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale
 Sherway Gardens Centre Square
 25 The West Mall
 Etobicoke, ON, Canada
 Apr 24 - 11am - 6pm
 Apr 25 - noon - 5pm
 Info: Vivian Beeching (905) 279 - 1758
 Jim Toms (416) 622 - 5243

April 24 & 25 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS Show/Sale
 Southern Homes & Gardens
 Hwy 231
 Montgomery, AL
 Apr 24 - 2pm - 5pm
 Apr 25 - 1pm - 4:30pm
 Info: Peg Phythyon (334) 567 - 5433



April 24 - CONNECTICUT

Thimble Islands AVS Show/Sale
Canoe Brook Senior Center
Cherry Hill Rd
Branford, CT
Hours: 1pm - 4pm
Info: (203) 481 - 9455

April 24 & 25 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester
50th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Perinton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd
(Rt 250 & 31)
Apr 24 - 2pm - 6pm
Apr 25 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384
email: IrwinWag@aol.com

April 24 & 25 - WASHINGTON

Seattle AVS and Puget Sound Gesneriad Society
Annual Show/Sale
U of Washington - Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St
Seattle, WA
Apr 24 - noon - 5pm
Apr 25 - noon - 4pm
Info: Jean M. Chin (206) 725 - 6494

April 24 & 25 - CANADA

Ottawa AVS Annual Show/Sale
RMO Headquaters
111 Lisgar St
Ottawa, Canada
Apr 24 - 1pm - 5pm
Apr 25 - noon - 4pm
Info: Dick Harriman (613) 747 - 7921

April 30 & May 1 - ALABAMA

Early Bird Violet Club Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, AL
Apr 30 - 2pm - 4pm
May 1 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Sandra Campbell (205) 755 - 0530 (day)
(205) 646 - 3542 (evening)

April 30 - May 1 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall
Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Cirkel - 479 - 3681

April 30 - May 2 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall
Route 31
Clay, NY
Apr 30 - noon - 9pm
May 1 - 2pm - 9pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Peter or Martha Thompson
(315) 446 - 0355
email: pmthomp@dreamscape.com

May 1 & 2 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln
Westport, CT
May 1 - 1:30 - 5pm
May 2 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570

May 1 & 2 - WISCONSIN

Crosstown & Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
East Towne Mall
Madison, WI
May 1 - 10am - 9pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Nancy Braun (608) 271 - 7796

May 1 & 2 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh AVS 19th Annual Show/Sale
Park Plaza Mall
Downtown Oshkosh-On-The-Water
Oshkosh, WI
May 1 - 10am - 5pm
May 2 - noon - 4:30pm
Info: Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall
Mills Rd & Main St
Ventura, CA
May 1 - 10am - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

Carlsbad AVS Show/Sale
Plaza Camino Real Mall
Carlsbad, CA
May 1 - 1pm - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Betty Roberson (760) 434 - 8116

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St Louis AV Council Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Gardens
4344 Shaw St
St Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Carolyn Burr (314) 225 - 2559

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sherwood Mall
5308 Pacific Ave
Stockton, CA
May 1 - 10am - 6:30pm
May 2 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Doris Weaver (209) 465 - 2214

May 1 & 2 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Spring Show
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA
May 1 - 2pm - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Mary McFarland (225) 923 - 3337

May 1 & 2 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Annual Show/Sale
Beechmont Mall
Rt 125 & Five Mile Rds
Cincinnati, OH
May 1 - 1pm - 9pm
May 2 - noon - 4pm
Info: Penny Wichman (606) 384 - 4437

May 7 & 8 - WASHINGTON

Longview AVC Show/Sale
Triangle Mall
Longview, WA
Mall Hours
Info: Virginia Bailey (360) 577 - 5827

May 7 & 8 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVC Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church Parish Hall
3747 34th St S
St Petersburg, FL (across from K-Mart)
May 7 - 9am - 4pm
May 8 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson (727) 866-3468
Sue MacFarlane (727) 866-8830

May 7 & 8 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS 23rd Annual Show/Sale
Market Mall Shopping Centre
3625 Shaganappi Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
May 7 - 10am - 9pm
May 8 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300
email: goretsky@cadvision.com

May 8 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall
Guernville Rd
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

May 8 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVS Educational Display/Plant Sale
Virginia Center Commons Mall
Hours: 10am - 9:30pm
Info: Sharon Long (804) 740 - 5322

May 8 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall
Rt 541
Burlington, NJ
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Laurel Brown (609) 877 - 8696
email: sskalski@snip.net

May 8 - OREGON

Portland AVS Sale/Display
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St (enter on north side of bldg)
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762
Valerie Miller (503) 654 - 0559

May 8 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Center
5 Municipal Dr
Jacksonville, AR
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Danny Tidwell (501) 726 - 4803

May 15 & 16 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS Judged
Show/Sale/Exhibit
Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake Cook Rd and Edens Expwy
Parking \$6 for non-garden members
Info: Barbara Goodsell (847) 729 - 1690

May 28 - 30 - CANADA

AVS of Canada National Convention/Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave East @ Leslie St
Toronto, ON, Canada
Info: Beverly Williams (905) 275 - 5408



Finding New African Violet Lovers

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI and Combes, TX

It should not be too much of a shock to realize that our national organization, affiliated clubs and individuals belonging to them are not really reaching the great majority of African violet growers or those who are potential growers.

At the risk of preaching, it is necessary to try new approaches to spread the message of how to raise and love these delightful plants. What is that new approach? We do not pretend to have the answer to that query.

There is no funding for a big advertising campaign much like the florist association can do. Virtually all of the members have other interests and individuals can spend time only as those other interests permit.

The workshops we have conducted have reached perhaps 2,000 people but our followups are made only when one of the people attending calls us with a problem. It is really unknown how many of them have become skilled African violet growers. Clubs conduct annual shows and sales and reach many thousands across the U.S. and in many countries. Have any of them ever done a followup to determine who among their many purchasers have had success raising plants? Furthermore have those people made any effort in passing on skills gained to others?

The African Violet Society of America reaches a large share of persons during its annual convention and perhaps it would provide some clues to increased public education and usage if we were to study certain statistics. Perhaps studying where the attendees live, how involved they are in teaching about African violets, and how they go about attracting new "converts" would give us clues to reaching individuals in our own sphere of activity.

Beyond a doubt the *African Violet* magazine is our best advertising medium. With it, individuals can over a period of time learn all of the ins and outs of growing. Unfortunately its use depends upon membership to the society. In the process it competes with many other specialized interest magazines for the household dollar. We note in our own areas of activity that local club members do not all hold membership in the society. If some clubs in the nation hold 100% membership in the society they might provide clues for other clubs to accomplish it.

The magazine is the device that sells memberships. The office and many volunteers do provide other services but the availability is probably only known through reading the magazine. Of course individual members do pass on some of that information but it is doubtful that the total picture of raising violets can be passed along in this manner.

It may sound crass to talk about selling the magazine but it might be one method of obtaining new members. If the idea of obtaining new members works by emphasizing the sale of the magazine, what is the harm? So individuals get other services along with the subscription. It is just another way of packaging to educate people about this delightful hobby.

The basic question of why a scheme of reaching more people is important is because in the process of selling subscriptions to individuals there is great probability that memberships can be increased in state and local clubs. There is ample information that some of them cannot hold shows because of lack of participating members to carry out the various arrangements for conducting it. Many cannot afford to pay for the transportation of judges nor do they have members trained to do the job themselves.

Of course there is like value in reaching more people for the national organization because it too, has tasks that need to be accomplished and the more members, the better it can carry out those tasks. Then too, being strictly mercenary about it, there is more money for even more educational functions.

From a commercial standpoint, the more people we reach the more their sales can increase. The better educated customers are, the more success they should have and this serves to obtain repeat business. And it is imperative that they have this success. In our experience the people who have failed for the most part will not be interested in trying again.

Success then is the key and this can only be done by education. That can only be accomplished by reaching people and that can only be done by an all out sales approach.

We do not have all the answers to the problem. It does seem as though it is a national and perhaps even international problem. There may be some individuals who do not see all of this as a problem at all. Perhaps we also need to hear from them. State organizations, clubs and individual members of the African Violet Society may well have suggestions on getting people interested and successful. Perhaps commercial growers can help?

Would a feed back system work in obtaining constructive information?

We have described problems that we have seen in our experience. If the need to expand our membership is seen to exist, then the question is: *how can we collectively solve the problem?* If it is not a problem in some areas how can we benefit from the experience of those people by applying it to the rest of the country?

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 5:05 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
2 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 1:59 am
3 Wed. 1:34 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
4 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
5 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
6 Sat. 12:25 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 Mon. 12:47 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 3:41 am
11 Thu. 12:54 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
12 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
13 Sat. 10:32 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
14 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
15 Mon. 4:51 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Wed. 7:13 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 1:48 pm
18 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
19 Fri. 8:09 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
20 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
21 Sun. 9:05 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
22 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
23 Tue. 11:33 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 5:18 am
25 Thu. 4:22 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 Sun. 11:35 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
29 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
30 Tues. 8:50 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
31 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	Full 5:50 pm

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
2 Fri. 7:49 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Sun. 8:08 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
7 Wed. 8:39 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 9:51 pm
9 Fri. 7:24 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
10 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
11 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
13 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
14 Wed. 5:46 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 11:22pm
16 Fri. 6:07 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
17 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
18 Sun. 5:39 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
19 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
20 Tue. 6:28 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
21 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 Thu. 10:06 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 2:02pm
23 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Sat. 5:05 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
25 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
26 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
27 Tue. 2:47 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
28 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 Thu. 2:13 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full 9:55 am

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

HELP US CHOOSE THE VERY BEST

An Invitation to Send Your Choices for the 1999 Best Variety List

Floyd Lawson, 1110 W. Huntington Dr., 21, Arcadia, CA 91007

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise both beginners and experienced growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is excellent. The Best Variety List is a yearly compilation of those varieties which have performed well across the nation...and now across the world!...in many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. Because members of the African Violet Society of America are those who vote for the best varieties, the Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage other growers to buy and grow?

Between now and July 31st every member of AVSA is encouraged to sit down and make a list of your 25 favorite plants. We really want to have every member's opinion. And just to make it very easy we have three ways for you to submit your choices:

- Send your list individually, to Floyd Lawson at the address above.

- Have a club meeting where the choices are discussed and gather and send the entire list (list all plants which received votes and how many each variety received. Please do not list just 25 for the entire club!). Please also enclose the total number of members voting as well as the name of the affiliate.
- Send the list to Floyd Lawson by E-mail at Floydll@earthlink.net

Whichever way you make YOUR choices will make the final list all the more meaningful and valuable!

Thank you for your response. The list helps hybridizers as their best plants are highlighted before our membership. The list helps growers spend their plant money wisely. The list helps our hobby by giving novices the best experience possible.

And "thank you" to each of you who encourage me along the way. I cannot answer notes individually, but they are much appreciated.



AVOIDING TRANSPLANT SHOCK IN VARIEGATED PLANTS

by Sue Gardner • Australia

Variegated plants sometimes develop brown patches after repotting. There are several possible causes for this.

1. Plants may be affected by cold conditions when transplanting. Repotting causes trauma to plants, and variegated plants seem to be affected more when repotted during the cold weather. Cold potting mix, or cold water can also cause brown blotches. These marks take a day or two to develop. Avoid repotting during cold weather and always avoid cold potting mix and cold water.

2. The leaf tissue of variegated plants seems to be more sensitive to touch. This may possibly be because they contain less chlorophyll. If you use a brush to clean the leaves, make sure that it is very soft. Also, avoid excessive handling and always be gentle.

3. When plants are transplanted the root system is damaged. If you prune the roots radically, there are fewer roots to absorb water and nutrients. If you water abundantly after repotting, the roots are not recovered sufficiently to deal with the swamp that may develop. Just make the potting mix moist and water sparingly the next day. Add a few drops of plant starter to the water.

To obtain the best results with variegated plants, repot during warmer spring days and take extra care as outlined above.

Reprinted with permission from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Newsletter, Mt Waverly, Australia

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

Kevin Degner - Oshkosh, WI

- ***Kev's Meteor Shower** (8756) 10/22/98 (K. Degner) Semidouble dark purple large ruffled star/coral fantasy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Large**

John Brownlie - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

- ***Aca's Flying Free** (8757) 10/27/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink sticktite star. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Hortense Pittman - Celina, TX

- ***Cool Blue** (8758) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble light blue. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Dancing Eyes** (8759) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/dark rose eye. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Foster Trail** (8760) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**
- ***Gleeful Elf** (8761) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Honey Berry** (8762) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Ken** (8763) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, wavy. **Miniature**
- ***My Smokey Trail** (8764) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double medium blue. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**
- ***Peppy Blue** (8765) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- ***Petite Ruby** (8766) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Planet Kid** (8767) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double pale blue/white edge. Light green, ruffled. **Miniature**
- ***Sandy Trail** (8768) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Single fuchsia sticktite pansy/white tips. Medium green, plain. **Miniature trailer**
- ***Spindletop** (8769) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Single-semi-

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

double white sticktite pansy/fuchsia center. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

- ***Teen Thunder** (8770) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double blue/white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***Texas Space Dust** (8771) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble light pink pansy. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Miniature**
- ***Wishful Teen** (8772) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double bright pink. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain. **Miniature**

Kent Stork - Fremont, NE

- ***Floozie** (8773) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid pink pansy/thin raspberry sparkled edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**
- ***Impostor** (8774) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double plum-wine star/white edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain. **Standard**
- ***Silent Prayer** (8775) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender large star/darker frilled edge. Medium green, plain. **Large**
- ***Smooch Me** (8776) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-pink pansy/variable red eye. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- ***Velvet Brocade** (8777) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple star/white edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Verdict** (8778) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy. Medium-dark green, quilted, glossy, wavy. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

George Gay - Wickliffe, KY

(Each of the following is preceded by the name George's)

- * Apple Blossoms
- * Bright Eyes
- * Day After
- * Happy Face
- * Hologram
- * Hurricane Andrew
- * Make Believe
- * Night Before
- * Phalaenopsis Red
- * Red Mirage

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE -	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
3 5/16 IN WIDE		
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA. Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$207.00 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Lane
Houston, Texas 77094-3412
Phone: 281-492-2034
email: avmads@avsa.org

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.



Travis Violets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

Phone 1-912-574-5167 (DAY)

1-912-574-5236 (NIGHT)

FAX: 1-912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



3 FREE VIOLETS!

Order now before May 1, 1999 and get 3 FREE violets, **our choice**. Min. order for this special is **12 PLANTS**.
Order from ad or from over 300 varieties listed in our 1999 Catalog. Send \$2.00.

SOME OF THE NEW VARIETIES WE HAVE TO OFFER:

1998-99 TRAVIS'
VIOLETS \$4.00
Heaven's A Calling
Hal's Bonnie Blue
Georgia Starburst
Star Eclipse
Darlin' Darlene
Georgia Sunset

Violets Aglow
Baby's Breath
Radiant Glow
1998 LYONS \$4.00
Arctic Frost
Blue Masterpiece
Blushing Fantasy
Broadway Star

Designer Print
Faded Denim
Festive Amethyst
Golden Flash
Golden Fountain
Harvest Moon
Kissing Bandit
Lying Eyes

Midnight Frolic
Moon Goddess
Nightfall
Phantom
Pink Feathers
Pirate's Gold
Rainbow Connection
Rainy Day Wishes

Royal Rage
Sergeant Pepper
Sunny Skies
The Artist
Thunder N' Lightning
Velvet Valentine
MINIS AND SEMINIS
Fireworks

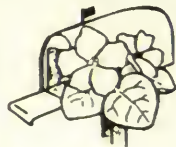
Golden Eye
Irish Touch
Kiss N' Tell
Little Chatterbox
Party Flirt
Smitten Kitten
Snow Leopard

Also LYONS 1997 Varieties and other new releases. Please list several substitutes.
1998-99 Plants - \$4.00 ea.; All other \$3.00 ea. Please add \$6.00 or 20%, whichever is greater for
First Class Shipping. Shipping starts April 1st - Weather permitting.

ORDERS SHIPPED IN ORDER RECEIVED

Try our **SUPER SPECIAL** - Twelve Husky Starters - all different - All plants **OUR CHOICE**, but all different - \$38 Postpaid.
New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our new plants. Specify: Special #1-Standards;
Special #2-Semis and Minis; Special #3-Standards, Semis and Minis; Special #4-Standards, Semis, Minis and Trailers.
VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER CREDIT CARD - List all info on card (exp. date). Minimum credit card order is \$30.00.
Greenhouse opened 7 days a week, please call first. **COMMERCIAL MEMBER: AVSA AND DIXIE.**

Visit our web site: www.imox.com/travisviolets



Alannah's Greenhouses

"mail order specialists"

African Violets, Gesneriads, Geraniums
& Tropical Flowering Plants

well established starter plants
fresh-cut leaves
growing supplies

We take pride in our expert wrapping and packaging
Shipping throughout Canada,
United States and Internationally

View the catalog on-line at
www.alannahs.com

To receive a copy of the '99 catalog, please send \$2.00
(available in early February)

Box 1342
Grand Forks, BC
VOH1H0 Canada

Box 2
Danville, WA
99121 US



Rozell Rose Nursery & Violet Boutique

Presents

1999 Catalog

Champion • Clive • Cox • Croteau
Elkin • Foster • Munk • Pittman
Dr. Jeff Smith

Over 600 African Violets & Gesneriads

Antique Roses & Miniature Roses
(available in U.S.A. Request Rose List)

Supplies • Flora-Carts • Soil • Gift Certificates

Send \$2.50 (\$5.00 International) for 1999 Catalog
Available Feb. 15th

Visitors welcome by appointment.



BILLY and CAROLYN ROZELL

12206 Hwy. 31 West
Tyler, TX 75709-9738

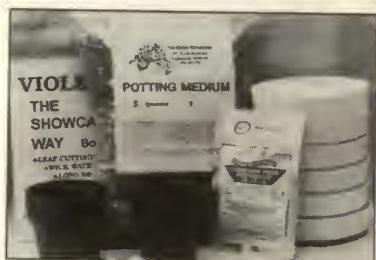
Phone: 903-595-5137
Fax: 903-593-7956



VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$29.00 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$16.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$28 per dozen plants. *Tell us if you would like any minis or trailers in your assortment. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds. of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A **\$26.00** value for **only \$16.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



Telephone (303) 761-1770 • FAX (303) 762-1808

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

The Violet Showcase

3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80110

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 5 (Mountain Time) closed Sunday & Tuesday

Established 1969



FOLLETT'S WATCH US GROW LIQUID FERTILIZER



African Violet enthusiasts get superior results with our gentle liquid fertilizer.



- Vibrant blooms
- Lush foliage
- Non-Burning

Special directions for feeding African Violets:
Mix ¼ tbsp. of Watch Us Grow per gallon of water to feed plants once every week, then flush with plain water every fourth week.

See for yourself! Call for a trial size bottle and booklet, only \$2.00. 1-800-799-2824.

www.watchusgrow.com

A new independent
AV and Gesneriad publication!

African - violet and
Gesneriad NEWS

IN CANADA \$15/yr (4 issues) (All other countries \$15. US)
Send for a sample copy - only \$2.

Payment must be made out to **John Beaulieu Productions**
37 Shaw Crescent, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Z3 (705) 726-7363

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00

Check payable to Genelle Armstrong

1313 Gardenia Drive

Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.

Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.

Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states

Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.

Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.
Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net
Phone: 334-899-7142

check us out on the web
www.graceba.net/~royh

A & W VIOLETS OUR SECOND YEAR

Best organized New varieties
Lots more starter plants!
Catalog \$2
8704 E. 92nd Pl. K.C. MO. 64138
(816) 765-5589



500 Varieties - **NO LIST** - Shipping "Our Choice" leaves only (with suggestions).
Specify Std or Mini/Semi. \$1.00 per variety, plus \$7.00 per order for Priority Mail.
Inquiries invited.

Bill & Kathryn Paauew
45 Third Street
W. Sayville, NY 11796
(516) 589-2724
violetsbypointment@juno.com

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne (Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92705

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY FREDERICKS, INC.

Alyce Droege Charlene Lentz

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!

STANDARDS in 3" & 4" pots, plus leaves

MINIS CHIRITAS
TRAILERS CHIMERAS
EPISCIAS STREPTOCARPUS
and other GESNERIADS

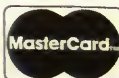
COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
fertilizers - spray - "my own mix" soil
Dandy pots - 2 sizes - many colors
growing pots - Oyamas - hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

Home of Aly's hybrids

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

P. O. Box 1416
Franklin, NC 28744
Monday - Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

1-828-349-4832

www.african-violets.com

Florida Registration number: 47219602



CAPE COD VIOLET

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

OUR 27TH YEAR

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	1	6	12	25	50
9"	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and
Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula Type Size / Price

7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt.	1 pt.
3-12-6	Bloom	\$4.29	\$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$4.29	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29	
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$10.00	

Dolomite Limestone		2 lbs./\$1.75	
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25

Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		1.75	5.00

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$4.19

2 oz. - \$5.25

4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"

4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid

Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols

Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

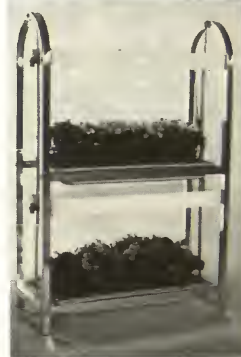
◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D



MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of
Minis, Trailers and various gesneriads.
Refundable with 1st order.
List available January 1999, \$2.00.



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants

Catalog - \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
(520) 326-3057
email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712
by appointment only

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484

**OLD FAVORITES PLUS NEW VARIETIES BY
LEADING HYBRIDIZERS. WALK-INS
WELCOME. LIST \$1.00 - U.S. SHIP ONLY.**

SONJA'S VIOLETS
(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Rd.
Omaha, Arkansas 72662



Pat's Pets

BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

NEW LOWER PRICES!

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high					
4" Wh/Gr No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4" Wh/Gr With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22"L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Cir	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Cir	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz/\$1.75	6 oz/\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz/\$3.00	12 oz/\$4.50
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz/\$3.75	2 oz/\$4.75
		4 oz/\$7.75

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER		
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



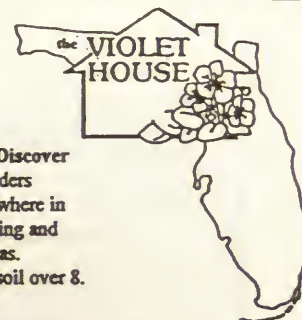
MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

prairieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials

AVSA ADDRESS LABELS

African Violet Society of America



Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lyons
38 Indian Creek Drive
Levittown, PA 19057

To order: **PRINT** the name, street address, city, state and zip clearly on 3 lines (28 letters and spaces maximum on each line). To receive 500 labels, mail your check for \$7.50 to Bill Lyons at the address on the label above. Orders will be submitted every time 30 are acquired.

You know African Violets -
now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, round robins, annual
convention, plus a copy of
"How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$20.00

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00

Please send check, money order, or
credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194 USA

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE
MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus
the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
OF CANADA**

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada



*The Association for plant
& flower people who grow
in hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

Lyndon Lyons GREENHOUSES, INC.

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality Hybrids
Since 1954

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Delgoeville, NY 13329



Evergreen Violets

LEAVES ONLY
LIST \$1.00 PLUS 2 - \$.33 STAMPS
MAIL ORDER ONLY
2304 169TH AVE N.E.
HAM LAKE, MN 55304



Many New, Exciting Varieties Available For 1999
New "Buckeyes", "Rebels", "Apaches", "Rodeos", Croteaus,
Ness', Storks, E. Wasche Hybrids, and Australians.
List \$1.50 (refundable) in cash, stamps or check payable to
Pat Hancock

Shipping Leaves only or visit us for PLANTS.
P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524



ShoMe Violets

We ship leaves only - **My Choice**
12 Leaves - \$15.50 ppd.

Tomazine Carlton - Owner
210 No. Maple St.

Phone: 660-542-2714
Carrollton, MO 64633



HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards, Lots of Oldies
Plus New Varieties, Shipping Fresh Cut Leaves Only,
State Inspected and Certified - Shipping United States Only*

1999 List \$1.50 - Payable to
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1999
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

SHIRLEY AND SANDY HOPE TO SEE YOU IN HOUSTON, TX!

THE WEEK OF APRIL 4TH THROUGH THE 11TH FOR THE 'LONE STAR VIOLET ROUND-UP'!

If you cannot attend the 53rd annual AVSA Convention, **SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS** will be shipping as soon as the weather permits. Listed below is a sampling of what we have to offer you in our new catalog. It is available for \$1.00.

PITTMAN - DONELLE - Double pink with fuchsia edge over symmetrical green variegated foliage. A pretty little plant named for a pretty little girl. M

HANCOCK - BUCKEYE BLUSHING - Ruffled semidouble/double lavender blossoms. Darker lavender to purple fantasy on some edges. Dark green, cream, pink fol. Std.

WILLIAMS - SUNCOAST FANTASY LOVE - Large semidouble fuchsia blossoms with dark purple fantasy. Large medium green slightly ruffled foliage. Standard

ROBINSON - ROB'S COOL FRUIT - Double white with rose edging over heavily crowned variegation. SM **Please note!** This one and his **ICE RIPPLES** are not in our catalog but are available from us. Leaves only on Robinson's new varieties until May.

SORANO - MUSIC BOX DANCER - Large semidouble /double stars of rose pink fading out to wide halos of white. Medium green, quilted foliage. Standard

Space does not allow us to give descriptions of all the lovely new varieties that we have available from Gregg-Hobbs, Ness, Stork, Brownlie. We also have favorites such as, the Wranglers, Apache, Rodeo and the best of Marie Burns.

We also have a good trailer selection with many new ones by Hortense Pittman!

Plants are \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 plants. Shipping is \$7.00. Shipping for over 6 will be 40 cents per plant.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 - \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases - 24 for \$24.00.

Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

We will begin shipping March 1 in most southern states. Other states when weather permits.

Make checks payable to **Shirley Sanders**
1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX 78221
Telephone number 210-923-1093

Sorry we do not accept credit cards.





Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

We ship during winter
Safe delivery guaranteed

We sell standards too!

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....plus dozens of other favorites

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful! Large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cutel; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow!; sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....plus dozens of other favorites

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

*THE IDES OF MARCH SEEM FAR AWAY AND STRANGE,
BUT ALL THE EARTH AWAKENS TO THE CHANGE.
DOWNY FLAKES OF SNOW TURN INTO GLISTENING DROPS OF RAIN,
WHILE SINGING BIRDS AGAIN SEEK BITS OF FOOD AND GRAIN.*

OUR NEWEST INTRODUCTION FOR 1999 ... BLUE CHARM ... \$3.95 each
A real charmer, airy semidouble celestial blue slightly fluted blossom with serrated edge,
medium green heart-shaped foliage, red reverse.

TREASURES TO TEMPT THE COLLECTOR ... \$3.95 each
Bianca, Designer Dress, Edge of Dawn, Fantasy Freckles,
Fantasy Lace, Halo's Aglitter, Hot Spot, Luminescence,
Sapphire Kisses, Spectacular.

TRY TINARI'S WIDE SELECTION OF CULTIVARS ... \$2.95 each
Arapahoe, Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Cherries 'N Cream, Chorale, Cristabel,
Fantasy Forty, Fire Mountain, Hot Pants, Louise, Mia,
Pink Cameo, Plum De Creme, Rapid Transit, Razmataz, Red Robe, Renata,
Ruffled Skies, Tomahawk, Toreador, White Cameo.

EVER-POPULAR VARIEGATED VARIETIES ... \$2.95 each
Affection, Champagne Halo, Happy Halo,
Nancy Reagan, Romance, Tommie Lou, Tradition.

ORDER DIRECT FROM THIS AD BY FAX, PHONE OR MAIL.

SEND \$1.00 FOR COLOR CATALOG FOR
COMPLETE LISTING OF VIOLETS AND ACCESSORIES.

PACKING AND POSTAL COSTS:

Zone 0-1-2 . . . \$6.95 per shipment

Zone 3-4-5 . . . \$7.95 per shipment

Zone 6-7-8-9 . . \$8.95 per shipment

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

CA and all customers west of MS we suggest UPS 2nd Day Air.

PLANT SHIPPING SEASON BEGINS MAY 1ST.

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD ORDERS

PHONE 1-215-947-0144

FAX 1-215-947-2163



**SINCERE BEST WISHES
FOR A SUCCESSFUL
53RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
IN HOUSTON, TX**



QR1
.A3149

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June 1999

Volume 52

Number 3



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 1146 Opal St. #102, Broomfield, CO 80020.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Houston, TX - April 4-11, 1999, Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$8.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$6.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$4.75 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1997, The African Violet Society of America, Inc. all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1997 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June

Volume 52

Number 3

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Attention: Senior Judges	4
Attention All Quilters! Quilt 2000.....	4
AVSA Help Wanted	4
Mouse Attack - Mary Ann Switzer.....	10
Gets Rid of Algae! - Carl Helm	11
Regional Reviews (Part 2) - Pat Richards	12
Important Notice: Senior Judges - Frances King	14
Green and Brown Thumbs - Hal McKain	15
Planting by Moon Signs	18
Miraculous Mildew Muncher - Catherine Thompson. .	19
My Tough 'Phobos' - Anne Herbatuk	19
African Violet Seed Pods - John Beaulieu.....	26
1999 Vacation Guide - David Buttram	30
Various Visible Variegates - Anne Tinari	35

Design Bits and Pieces - Edna Rourke.....	38
The Little Chimera Who Could - Shirley M. King	42
Tailoring the Trailer - Ralph Breden	43
Committees of the African Violet Society of America - Janet Riemer	44
Just Be Patient - Rose Marie Yeates	45
Impressions of a New Grower - Susan Murphy	48
Did I Do That?	49
The New Plant - Dorothy Kosowsky.....	50
African Violet Necks - Winston S. Marchant	51
Propagation: <i>a shortcut to sturdy African violet starters</i> - Sharon Holtzman	52
New Show Entries Program Now Available	52
Violets For Violet Growers - Dr. Ralph Robinson	54

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Bill Foster.....	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
For Beginners - Al & Cathy Cornibe	6
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens.....	9
Question Box - Ralph Robinson.....	16
AVSA Affiliates - Bev Promersberger.....	20
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons.....	21
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	22
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck.....	24
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton ..	24
Showcase (1)	28
Showcase (2)	32
Shows & Judges - Bill Foster	34

Registration Report - Iris Keating	34
Showcase (3)	36
Membership Application	39
Design Photo: Experience Yosemite	40
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin.....	41
In Memory	41
AVSA Commercials: A Closer Look - The Violet Showroom - David Buttram	46
Coming Events	53

CONVENTION

1999 National Show Highlights.....	5
Nominations Needed - Linda Golubski	8
Go Wild in Omaha	23

COVER

Ness' Cranberry Swirl
2nd Best in Show
1998 AVSA National Show
Exhibited by:
Carroll Gealy
Hybridized by:
D. Ness
Seminiature
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



MISSOURI BOTANICAL
MAY 06 1999
GARDEN LIBRARY

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

- A & W Violets 56
 Acree Creations 64
 African Violets By
 Fredericks, Inc. 61
 AGGS 57
 American Orchid Society 57
 AV Enterprises Press 58
 AVS of Canada 58

B

- Bayou Violets 57
 Belisle's Violet House 64

C

- Cape Cod Violetry 59
 Country Violets Greenhouses . . 60
 Cryptanthus Society 57

D

- Desert Violets 61
 Dyna Gro. 58

E

- Evergreen Violets 58

G

- Gesneriad News 58

H

- Hattie Baggett's African Violets. . 64
 Herbal Garden Ceramics 60
 Hobby Greenhouse 58

I

- Indoor Gardening Supplies. . . 60

J

- JF Industries. 60

N

- Neptune's Harvest 57

O

- Optimara 25

P

- Pat's Patch. 64
 Pat's Pets. 60
 Physan 20. 61
 Prairie Violets. 58

R

- Rob's Mini-o-lets 62

S

- Shirley's House of Violets. . . . 63
 Sonja's AV's. 64
 Source Technology 64

T

- Tanzania Wildlife Fund 57
 Teas Nursery 61
 Tinari Greenhouses . . . Back Cover
 Travis' Violets 64

V

- Violets by Appointment. 61
 Violet House. . . Inside Back Cover
 Violet Showcase 63
 Violet Venture 57
 Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses. . . 60



OFFICERS:

Bill Foster, President
 3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

Jack Wilson, 1st VP
 10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Janet Riemer, 2nd VP
 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
 Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: jriemer@tigger.junc.net

Linda Owens, 3rd VP
 1762 Sternwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: lowens4@juno.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
 922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

Esther Edwards Wells, Immediate Past President
 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

STAFF:

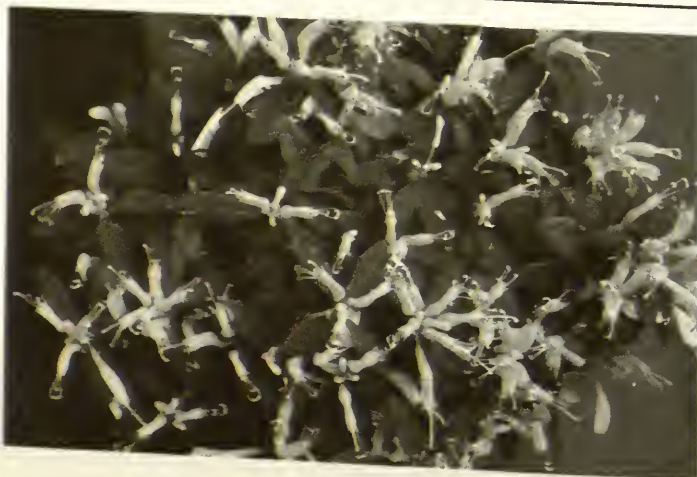
Ruth Rumsey, Editor
 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
 19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
 5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
 1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
 2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com



Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message



Dear AVSA Members:

Thanks to all of you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me by electing me to the office of President of our beloved organization. It is indeed an honor to serve in this capacity. The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and I promise to work hard for the betterment of AVSA. We urge you to always feel free to offer comments and suggestions.



Esther Edwards Wells, our immediate past President, is to be commended for the years she has devoted to AVSA. Thanks, Esther, for all the time and efforts you have contributed to achieve changes that improved AVSA.

Wow, what a 53rd convention we had! The Lone Star African Violet Council made the "Lone Star Violet Round-Up" an event to remember. Show Chairman Meredith Hall, and co-chairmen Jane Rexilius and Ruth Goeke, and Show Chairman Gerri Goins, and co-chairman Judith Carter, and all their "Texas Wranglers" are to be commended for an outstanding job. Ron Davidson, Joe Bruns, John Carter and their entire team, using the new entries program, handled classification and entries far more rapidly and error-free than ever before. Not one entry got into the wrong class and there were over 800 entries! A very special thanks to all the exhibitors for the beautiful entries they brought from near and far. Without their efforts we would not have had that grand display of color in the showroom.

As we come from the "Lone Star Violet Round-Up" in Texas, it is time to start saving our pennies so we can have a "WILD" time in Omaha, Nebraska in June, 2000. They have vowed to have 1,000 entries in the show. Let's all bond together to help them achieve their goal.

AVSA reached a milestone at this convention, when the Board of Directors voted to award the first scholarship to Lisa P. Haley of Berry College at Mt. Berry, Georgia. Along with the scholarship, Lisa was given a one year honorary membership to AVSA. Two business meetings were conducted and the results of those meetings will be presented in the African Violet Magazine. Please welcome these new standing committee chairmen: Pat Richards, Commercial Sales & Exhibits; Linda Owens, Convention; Gary Gordon, Finance; Carolyn Burr, Library; Martha Turner, Nominating; and James Rubottom, Internet. Please continue to support AVSA and help us work toward improvement.

Truly,

Bill Foster
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

Another convention has passed, and I hope you had as much fun in Houston as we did. Of course, Jenny worked the Registration table and I was at the AVSA Sales table. This gave us the opportunity to visit with our old friends and meet other members that we've only known through phone calls or letters. **Tammi Vice** and **Joanna McCown**, the AVSA Office Secretaries, joined us in Houston for the weekend. AVSA Members were able to see the pretty faces that go with those Texas drawls they hear when they call the office in Beaumont.

Convention Chairman, **Meredith Hall**, and her staff did a wonderful job in organizing the events, as did **Gerri Goins**, Show Chairman. Many convention attendees considered this to be one of AVSA's best conventions. Many thanks also to our Convention Director, **Ann Miller**.

The Showroom was amazing with over 800 entries! **Winston Goretsky**, AVSA Official Photographer, took photos of many of these lovely plants, and you will be seeing them in the AVM, beginning with the July issue. My apologies to Winston for not giving him the photo credit for the cover of the March AVM, which seemed to be a favorite of our members.

Thanks to all of the Board Members who took a turn or two working the Sales Table. A big thanks to **Don** and **Maxine Geiss** who were a great help to both Jenny and myself.

On Tuesday of convention week, a tour came to Beaumont. After a trip to **Becker Printing** to see this issue of the AVM on the presses, they came to the office. Our dear friends, the ladies of the **AVS of Beaumont**, acted as host-

esses, guiding our visitors through the building and providing delicious treats and beverages. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tour, and were pleased to see the lovely building that is AVSA's Headquarters.

We do encourage all of you to come by the office whenever you're in Southeast Texas. After the convention, our friends, **Ralph** and **Olive Ma Robinson** met us here on their way back to New York. They agree that the AVSA office is a wonderful environment in which to work.

Thanks to **Ralph Breden** for the oranges he brought us from his tree in California. We enjoyed seeing our old friends **Bill** and **Bebe Edwards**, **Gary Gordon** and **Laurel Goretsky**, and spending time with new friends **Cathleen Graves**, **Roxanne**, **Molleen Kanewischer** and new Board Member **Georgette Jolivette**. We also had a lot of fun with our dinner partners, **Sandy** and **Shirley Sanders**, **Ray Pittman**, **Fred Packer**, **Patricia Tillman**, **Paul Sorano**, **Naomi Nolan** and **Randy Deutsch**.

For the listing of winners at the National Show, please look on page 5.

This issue also contains **David Buttram's** "Vacation Guide 1999". This is a listing of Commercial members that you may plan to visit while traveling this summer (page 30). **Pat Richard's** "Regional Reviews - Part 2" continues on page 12. Turn to page 38, to read AVSA Board Member **Edna Rourke's** article on "Design Bits & Pieces".

My friend, **John Beaulieu**, publisher of the *African Violet and Gesneriad News*, Ontario, Canada, shares a very interesting article, "African Violet Seed Pods" on page 26. See the ad for John's exciting new publication on page 58.

ATTENTION: SENIOR JUDGES

1999 Senior Judges Exam is now available on diskette. If you would prefer using your computer, specify that you want the diskette rather than the typed version.

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!! - QUILT 2000

The AVSA Building Maintenance Fund Committee plan to have a Friendship Quilt to be raffled at the 2000 Convention in Omaha. If you would like to make a block to be included in the quilt, it would be appreciated.

All blocks should be violet related. They may be pieced, embroidered, appliqued, or cross-stitched. Please use unbleached muslin for the background. Size of the blocks should be 12" with a 1/2" seam allowance. Don't forget to put your name on the blocks, or the name of your affiliate.

Send your completed blocks to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside Drive, St. Charles, Missouri 63304, by September 30, 1999, to be set together and quilted by the Convention in June 2000.

It was great to see everyone who stopped by our table at the Houston Convention. Thanks for the support you gave to the AVSA Building Maintenance Fund.

Helen Blanton, Chairman

HELP WANTED

Professionals Sought for AVSA Projects

MARKETING CONSULTANT

GRAPHIC ARTIST

AVSA seeks assistance with two high-profile projects. AVSA membership not required. Contact Lynn Lombard by June 1, 1999. 790 Ridgcrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713; (530)637-5988; e-mail lombard@oro.net

1999 AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

53rd Annual AVSA Convention
Houston, TX

Best in Show (also Best Standard)	Rodeo Country	Elmer Godeney
2nd Best in Show (also Best Semiminiature)	Teen Sweetheart	Kathy Lahti
3rd Best in Show (also Best Miniature)	Orchard's Bumble Magnet	Pat Richards
Horticulture Sweepstakes	31 blue ribbons	Bev Promersberger
Runner-Up Horticulture Sweepstakes	28 blue ribbons	Marilyn P. Hall
Best AVSA Standard Collection		
Picasso, Bertha, Barbara Ann		William Sugg
2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection		
Lela Marie, Mary Craig, This Bud's Mine		Roy Hall
Best AVSA Miniature/Semiminiature Collection		
Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Dean's Wildfire, Ness' Cranberry Swirl		Bev Promersberger
2nd Best AVSA Miniature/Semiminiature Collection		
Optimara Little Aztec, Definitely Darryl, Teen Sweetheart		Kathy Lahti
Best Holtkamp Collection		
Optimara Little Fluorite, Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Crystal		Patricia Tillman
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection		
Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Opal, Optimara Little Ruby		Kathy Lahti
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection		
Optimara Little Amethyst, Optimara Little Pearl, Optimara Rose Quartz		Linda Golubski
Best Trailer	Marion's Enchanted Trail	Pat Richards
Best Species	Saintpaulia velutina	Linda Golubski
Best Other Gesneriad	Columnnea 'Midget'	Fred Packer
2nd Best Other Gesneriad	Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'	Pat Richards
3rd Best Other Gesneriad	Sinningia pusilla	Dale Martens
Best Design in Show	"A Literary Great"	Fran Russom
2nd Best Design in Show	"Our Texas Hybridizers"	Fran Russom
3rd Best Design in Show	"Galveston Bay"	Penny Moore
Design Sweepstakes	8 blue ribbons	Jane Rexilius
Runner-Up Design Sweepstakes	8 blue ribbons	Olive Ma Robinson
Best Commercial Display Table		Rob's Mini-O-lets
2nd Best Commercial Display Table		Kent's Flowers
3rd Best Commercial Display Table		The Violet Showroom
Best in Show Commercial Division	Milky Way Trail	JoS Violets
2nd Best in Show Commercial Division	Apache Friendship	Lenora Munk
3rd Best in Show Commercial Division	Gleeful Elf	Ken Froboese
Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes	32 blue ribbons	Ken Froboese
Runner-Up Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes	17 blue ribbons	Olive Ma Robinson
Best New Cultivar Commercial Division	Rob's Hallucination	Rob's Mini-O-lets
2nd Best New Cultivar Commercial Division	Rob's Hand Puppet	Rob's Mini-O-lets
3rd Best New Cultivar Commercial Division	Floozie	Kent's Flowers
Best AVSA Standard Collection Commercial Division		
Rodeo Country, Rodeo Showgirl, Apache Freedom		J. C. Munk
Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection Commercial Division		
Aca's Pink Pet, Optimara Rose Quartz, Texas Space Dust		Shirley Sanders
2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection Commercial Division		
Optimara Little Blackfoot, Optimara Little Cheyenne, Classic Rock		Olive Ma Robinson
Best Holtkamp Collection Commercial Division		
Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Diamond		Darryl Hoover
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection Commercial Division		
Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Crystal, Optimara Little Lapis		Shirley Sanders
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection Commercial Division		
Optimara Little Aztec, Optimara Little Shoshone, Optimara Little Apache		Olive Ma Robinson
Best Other Gesneriad Commercial Division	Streptocarpus 'Blue Thunder'	David Harris

For Beginners



Cathy & Al Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

When you don't have any African violets to enter in your club's show, you can still participate and join in the fun by entering a design! If you haven't done a design yet, this column will give you some general information on the Design Division, along with a few tips.

Please let us know if there is a particular type of design that you would like us to cover in a future column. We want to be as helpful as possible.

We would also like to do a column (maybe once a year) that will pass along tips, suggestions, and good ideas for growing African violets from our readers. If you have something that helps you as an African violet grower – please send it to us! Unless you specify otherwise, we will include your name.

THE DESIGN DIVISION

The Design Division of an AVSA Convention or AVSA Affiliate Show is divided into the following three sections:

1. Interpretive Flower Arrangements
2. Interpretive Plant Arrangements
3. Container Gardens

An AVSA Affiliate Show may have one, two, or three sections, depending on the size of the Affiliate and the capability of its members. We will briefly describe how these three sections differ.

Interpretive Flower Arrangements: Remember the word "FLOWER" in the Interpretive Flower Arrangements to remind yourself to use fresh-cut blossoms in that design. The blossoms must be cut from the African violet plant and should be put into some type of blossom tube holder that contains water to keep the blossoms fresh. The blossoms should be the highlight of the design. Specialized types of Interpretive Flower Arrangements, such as kinetic, small, underwater and hanging flower arrangements would be in this section of the show.

Interpretive Plant Arrangements: The word "PLANT" in the Interpretive Plant Arrangements should remind you to use one or more African violet plants in that design. The entire African violet plant or plants must be removed from their pots and enclosed in plastic or some other material. The African violet plant should be the focal point of the design. Plant arrangements and hanging plant arrangements would be in this section of the show.

In both the Interpretive Flower and Plant Arrangements, other plant materials and man-made material (other than artificial plant material), plus accessories, backdrops, and draping is permitted unless restricted by the show schedule.

Container Gardens: Think of a "GARDEN" in Container Gardens to remind yourself to landscape a miniature garden, or miniature scene, that contains one or more African violets along with other plants that would be compatible when grown in the same cultural environment. All plants must be planted in the container and no cut plant material is permitted. Terrariums, dish gardens, bottle gardens, and natural gardens are the four types of Container Gardens that would be in this section of the show.

SOME BASIC RULES FOR THE DESIGN DIVISION

In the Horticulture Division, all plants must have been in your possession for at least three months before the show. However, in the Design Division, you can buy the African violets and other plant materials for your designs. So, if you don't have any African violets to enter in your next show, enter a design!

The American flag, artificial plant material (for example, silk plants or silk flowers), and live creatures must not be used in any design. All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and must conform to the show schedule and AVSA rules.

READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE

As soon as you receive your show schedule, read it completely. If you don't understand something, ask a member of your club to explain it to you.

While you are reading the design titles, hopefully a class title will peak your interest. Sometimes an idea will come to you immediately as to how you can interpret that title in a design. At other times, an accessory, plant materials, or just working on the design itself will help you to interpret the title. Your interpretation can be obvious or merely suggested.

READ AVSA'S HANDBOOK

AVSA's Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges is a wonderful book that everyone should own! If you don't have a copy, please order one from AVSA. It not only contains valuable information on how to grow violets, but it also explains how your plants and designs will be judged at a show. So, before you start to work on your design, read the section on the Design Division.

HOW TO ENTER A DESIGN IN YOUR SHOW

If your show schedule does not explain how to enter a design, ask a fellow club member how this is done in your club. Since some clubs limit the number of design entries in each class, don't wait too long to enter or your favorite class might be full.

ATTEND DESIGN PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

Many clubs have design programs and/or workshops before their show. If your club doesn't, respectfully ask that they be added. Most designers are honored to be asked to do a talk on designs. They usually love to share tips and suggestions. AVSA also has informative slide programs on designs.

LOOK AT THE DESIGNS AT AFRICAN VIOLET SHOWS

Visit African violet shows and ask for a copy of their show schedule so you can read it as you look at their designs. Ask questions! If you see a design that you like, talk to the person who entered it. Most designers are thrilled when someone takes the time to tell them that they like their design and are happy to share how they did it.

Although your design should never be a copy of someone else's, you can get ideas for your own creation by looking at other designs.

AFRICAN VIOLET PLANTS AND BLOSSOMS

For Interpretive Plant Arrangements and Container Gardens, the African violet doesn't need to be show-quality but it should be healthy, in good condition, and have fresh blossoms. Of course, a beautiful violet always helps to make

a design look better. For Interpretive Flower Arrangements, the blossoms should be fresh-cut and in good condition.

Although designers sometimes wait to buy their violets at the show's sales table, this is risky. The sales table might not have what you need and then it could be too late to find a violet or blossoms elsewhere. Many designers purchase violets before their show or grow their own to use in their designs.

ACCESSORIES, OTHER PLANT MATERIALS, CONTAINERS, ETC.

When an accessory is needed to portray the title, or if an accessory is required, it should be in proportion to the design. The color and size of the accessory, and its placement, should never draw attention away from the design.

Garage sales, flea markets, and thrift stores are good places to shop for reasonably priced items. Florists, floral supply companies, nurseries, hobby stores, doll house miniature shops, and import companies sell many of the supplies that you might need. Pet stores often sell wood, rocks, lava rocks, gravel, sand, and accessories. Beaches are great for sand, shells, and driftwood.

WORKING ON YOUR DESIGN AT HOME

When you start early, you can solve any problems that might occur. Some designers mentally picture their finished design; others sketch a rough draft before they start. It doesn't really matter how you begin, just allow plenty of time so you don't feel rushed.

Usually a large table is a good place to work on a design. Sheets of newspaper can minimize the mess and make cleanup easier. Put everything that you might need on the table and get started.

To avoid unnecessary stress to the violet or blossoms that you plan on using to complete your design, you can use an artificial violet or artificial blossoms while you are working on your design. Take time to stand back and look at your design objectively. If it looks too cluttered, remove something. Beginners usually make the mistake of adding too many accessories. Mechanics should be hidden and well camouflaged. If there are space limits in the schedule, measure your design. It should fill the space with enough of a margin so it does not crowd the sides.

MAKE A LIST

While working on your design, make a list of the things that you will need at the show to finish it. For a terrarium, the list might include: bring mister, scissors, tweezers, brush, paper towels and glass cleaner to the show.

LAST MINUTE TOUCH-UPS AT HOME

Everything should be clean and free of dust. In Interpretive Plant Arrangements and Container Gardens,

dead leaves and spent blossoms should be removed. In Interpretive Flower Arrangements, any cut materials that are wilting or dying should be removed and replaced with fresh ones. If you can, wait to add your violet blossoms at the show before judging.

TRANSPORTING YOUR DESIGN TO THE SHOW

Get a sturdy box ready, in advance, so your design will make it to the show in one piece. Review your list, you don't want to forget anything at home.

PLACING YOUR DESIGN AT THE SHOW

Place your design exactly where you want it in your niche or space provided. Do any last minute grooming that might be necessary. Make sure that your niche or space is clean before you leave the show.

BEFORE JUDGING

Most clubs let designers into the show room before judging so they can add blossoms and do last minute touch-ups. Review your list before you leave home. Bring everything

that you will need to the show with you. It doesn't hurt to bring anything that you "might" need to avoid a trip back home. Many designers use a plastic tool box or some other type of inexpensive container to carry their supplies back and forth.

AFTER JUDGING

Read any comments that the judges made on your design. If any of the judges are still at the show, ask them for suggestions on how your design could have been improved. Take a picture of the design so you can look at it later while you consider the judges' comments or suggestions for improvement.

When you enter a design in a show, you should be proud of yourself! It takes a lot of work to do a design, but it is so rewarding when you see your design on display at a show.

Good luck with your design! Let us know how it turned out.

Reference: AVSA's Handbook For African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges

Nominations Needed for the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership

The Mabel and Glen Hudson Award was established to honor individuals for outstanding leadership activities within an affiliated chapter. The recipient is recognized at the closing banquet of the annual convention with a citation and a very nice award. All affiliate groups are encouraged to suggest names of potential candidates for this award. Secretaries of affiliates should send the name of the nominee, along with a detailed list of leadership activities and accomplishments to:

Linda L. Golubski - AVSA Awards Committee Chair

1416 N.W. A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015-3605
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Complete information should be submitted no later than November 1, 1999 to be considered for the award that will be presented at the 2000 AVSA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. In order for the Awards Committee to give your recommendations maximum consideration, please share as much information as possible, focusing on contributions at the local affiliate level. There is a form to use as a guide that may be obtained by calling, writing or e-mailing the above addresses.

GOING WILD IN OMAHA

Omaha, 2000, should be a "WILD" convention. I'd like to be able to give all those "wild animals" PLENTY OF GREEN to eat! Won't you get an early start this year and ask your affiliate or club members to generously donate an award for the Omaha Convention? Please send your award by September 15, 1999 so that it may be published in January 2000 *African*

Violet Magazine, with all of the other details of the Omaha, Nebraska Convention. Special requests are assigned, based on the order of receipt. Also please note that AVSA now gives cash and rosette awards for all of the top winners in amateur, design and commercial divisions. Cash donations must be paid in U.S. funds by check or money order made payable to *AVSA Convention*. Appropriate items other than cash (i.e. silver, rosette) will be accepted. However, please do not send gift certificates. When sending an award, please include the following information:

Donor or Name of Award

Address of contact person

Amount of award or other appropriate item

Request for specific class or section if available
(amateur, design, commercial)

Cash awards which cannot be awarded because there are no qualified entries (i.e. no blue ribbon entry for specific cultivar awards) are given to AVSA. Undesignated awards assigned to a class which subsequently has no blue ribbon entries are reassigned as needed. Awards for the best plant of a specific hybridizer or series or awards which will complicate judging will not be accepted. All awards must be sent to the Awards Chairman.

Mail your awards today for the Omaha Convention and Show in 2000 to:

Linda L. Golubski - AVSA Awards Committee Chairman

1416 N.W. A Street • Blue Springs Mo 64015-3605
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • golubski@kc.net

Gesneri-Advice



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

I've just returned from the Dixie African Violet Society Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. I'd always heard how fun that convention is, and it certainly lived up to its reputation. There were about 30 gesneriad entries with Kathy Spissman's *Streptocarpus* 'Maason's White', winning Best Gesneriad. The blossoms are white with a chartreuse-yellow center, and the leaves have a tendency to be humongous! It was fun to see seedling episcias entered in the show by Sarah McGaha, who is an excellent grower. Kay Red Horse entered an extremely well grown *Columnea* 'White Prince' which I suspect is actually 'Light Prince.' Travis Davis of Travis' Violets got the commercial Best Gesneriad with a *Sinningia speciosa*. You should have seen the huge speciosas and chintas he was selling!

This show had several columneas on display. Three of them were in tall glass vases in order to lift them off the table and show off their long stems. That's a fine way to display them. The best thing to do is to call the Show Chairman and find out who is in charge of staging. Ask that person what you might do to display your gesneriad. The easiest thing to do is to paint a coffee can white or cover it in white material. Some longer plants may need a stack of coffee cans! Episcias can often benefit from being lifted off the table in order to display their stolens.

The question I got asked the most was how I got so many blossoms on my micro-miniature *Sinningia pusilla*, which was shown in a 2-1/4 inch pot. I didn't count the blossoms at the show, but as of this moment it has 27 open blossoms! That particular plant has been in the same pot for about 2 years now. There's no soil in that pot. I added water to a New Zealand sphagnum pellet which makes about 2 cups of potting material. I put some of that sphagnum in my small pot and packed it quite firmly. I used a nylon wick, too. Then I added my *Sinningia pusilla* tubers. I leach it about once a month with distilled water followed by Dyna-

Gro. Otherwise I alternate non-urea fertilizers in my reservoirs giving all my plants about 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon. I never give my sinningias a "high bloom" fertilizer. I did that once and killed 3 trays of seedlings.

Why does my little *Sinningia* get so many blossoms as compared to micro-miniature sinningias grown in bowls? Fertilizer is the answer. When plants are grown in a terrarium environment they do not get to "eat" as much as those grown out in the open. Think about how often you add fertilized water to a bubble bowl terrarium. I bet it's not often. My little *Sinningia* goes through 2 cups of fertilized water in about 3 weeks. That's why I leach it so often. I'm worried about fertilizer salt build up.

Doesn't a micro-miniature *Sinningia* need a lot of humidity? I guess the way I grow it in the sphagnum, it gets a lot of humidity. It's actually fairly wet. What saves the plant from drowning or getting root rot is that the sphagnum has quite a few air pockets so the roots have plenty of air. I grow my micro-miniatures within 6 inches of the fluorescent tubes. I use cheap cool-white tubes.

My *Sinningia pusilla* has received a "butch" hair cut twice in the past year. I accidentally let it dry out and it looked terrible. I took a scissors and cut straight across the top of the plant. Within a week brand new growth sprouted! Each time it was ready for show in about 6 to 8 weeks. I recently tried "rock wool" as a soil substitute, but found my micro-miniatures had stunted growth. I gave them a six month trial. When I transplanted them to the sphagnum, they began to grow normally. If anyone has had success growing in rock wool, please let me know how you did it. I successfully grew small, but not micro-miniature, sinningias in leca stones for a while. There again, you must be quite careful in the types of fertilizer you use. What I discovered in using leca stones was that the sinningias were smaller and had more blossoms than those in soil or sphagnum.

MOUSE Attack!



Mary Ann Switzer
Chesterfield, MO

In 1997 I dealt with a pest which I don't recall reading about in any African violet literature: MICE.

My adventure started one July evening just before ten o'clock. I had gone to my basement violet room to get an address I needed. After copying it down, I turned to admire my plants one more time before turning in. The grow lights were still on and suddenly I saw that something was terribly wrong. Some leaves were lying on the shelves. They had holes in them. Some plants were missing their centers. I had no idea what had caused such destruction. I was shocked. I quickly surveyed the plant shelves and determined that all the damaged plants were on the top shelves of two plant stands. None of these plants were in bloom because they had been disbudded after our show in May. All the damage was done to foliage. I was perplexed.

I carried two of the damaged plants and some of the holey leaves upstairs to show my husband. Then I went back to the basement to get Dr. Cole's book Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book. I spent the next two hours reading Dr. Cole's book and trying to identify what pest could be attacking my African violets. But none of his descriptions matched my plant damage. I also consulted Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book. She has a "Quick Reference Trouble Chart" which is eleven pages long. The chart has columns such as: "What it looks like", "That it probably is", "Control or cure", and dosage and frequency of application. While a lot of the chemicals she recommends are out of date (the book was written in 1970), the descriptions of damage and diagnoses are very useful today. But nothing I read matched the damage to my plants. I had an overwhelming urge to start spraying my plants, but I didn't. I couldn't imagine what insect was causing this damage. I took pictures of the damage, and went to bed with a heavy heart.

The next morning I checked my violet room and there was more damage. I called the pest control company that sprays my home monthly (we live in a heavily wooded area), and they said that they would send my regular tech-

nician over that very morning. When he arrived he asked what was wrong and I took him to the basement. While he had no special knowledge of horticulture, he had been admiring my African violets on a monthly basis and knew that this was serious. Together we looked over the damaged plants and even used a magnifying glass I had handy. Then he made his diagnosis: MICE. That had never even occurred to me. With the tip of a pencil he pointed to something on the top of the soil. He said it was a mouse dropping. It looked like a tiny piece of charcoal to me.

Then my education about mice began. The technician told me that mice get into your home through a hole no bigger than a dime. He said they can dislocate their shoulders to squeeze through a small space. He figured that the mouse was probably after moisture, and the violet leaves were a good source. With a flashlight he looked all around my basement trying to figure where the mouse, or mice, had gotten in. He concluded that the probable place of entry was a gap where wiring went outside to the air-conditioner unit. He suggested getting some foam-in insulation at the hardware store. Also, he suggested buying some old-fashioned mouse-traps. The only traps he had on his truck were glue boards. He said that many people consider this type of trap to be inhumane because the mouse suffers so much before it dies. Also, he recommended using a dab of peanut butter on the trap, not a piece of cheese like in cartoons. He also put a black plastic box that had mouse poison along one wall.

So that night we went to the hardware store and got the insulation and mousetraps (I later learned that you can buy them at the grocery store). I put out six mousetraps with peanut butter. The technician had told me to put them along the wall, since mice usually run along walls, not across a room. The next morning there was one dead mouse. Two days later there was another dead mouse. On his next regular visit my technician spent a lot of time looking around the basement. He called me down to listen to an interesting noise. It was a faint gnawing noise. There are



Plant centers completely gone. Leaves broken off.



Close-up of holes eaten in leaves.

two places where air ducts go through the concrete basement wall into a crawl space below a room addition. There is foam-in insulation around the ductwork. There must have been mice on the other side nibbling away. He suggested that I get some steel wool and stuff it between the air ducts and concrete because obviously the mice were eating their way through the insulation. I bought the steel wool at the hardware store in the paint department. I used two whole packages to create a strong barrier.

My problem seemed to be over. But I left the mousetraps in place just in case. The peanut butter dried out. Then in November I was surprised to find another dead mouse in a trap. By then I had a new pest control technician. I told her the whole story. She checked the mouse bait box and it was empty. So she put out a new box. After determining that no children or pets ever went to the basement, she put out more mouse bait that wasn't in a box. It was a compressed block of chemicals. She placed these blocks along a ledge at the top of the basement wall. I have learned that once inside your house mice may live as long as a year in a hidden corner of an attic or basement. Recently I climbed up on a ladder and checked the blocks of bait; they have been

nibbled on. It has now been more than a year since I have had any mice. I continue to leave the mousetraps in place and refresh the peanut butter every few months.

While I was at first embarrassed to admit that I had mice, I have since learned that just about everyone I know has battled them in their basement or garage at one time or another. Everyone has a tale of the damage they have done, but no one else has told me of African violet damage.

What really puzzled me was: why did I have a mouse problem now? I have lived in the same house for twenty-three years and it has always been a wooded neighborhood. My exterminator says the mice have always been out there, it is just that the insulation around pipes and wiring has deteriorated. My advice to other homeowners is to check the outside of your house for gaps around incoming wires, pipes and vents. Also check around windows. Tuck steel wool in any gaps found.

The only bright side to this story is that I found the damage when it first started. If I had been out of town on a two week vacation, the damage could have been much worse. Also, I am proud of myself for not giving in to the urge to start spraying chemicals. It wasn't an insect problem at all.



Worth Repeating...

Gets Rid of Algae!

by Carl Helm • Bradenton, FL

Growing plants on matting and you have problems with algae?

I have solved this problem with my plants and it is so simple I wonder if others have tried it. Maybe they have, but haven't shared it.

I buy 3/4 inch Styrofoam (4' x 8') and cut it with a razor knife to fit exactly in my trays. Then by using a 20 ounce pineapple can with the rolled edge cut off and sharpened with a file, I proceed to cut holes in the Styrofoam with a board underneath it. The plug will go in the can and you

press on the edge of the plug and it will turn sideways to remove it.

I cut the holes in a zig-zag design to allow for more plants in the tray. Save all cut out plugs to place in the holes if you do not have enough plants to fill the tray.

In case you have square pots, collars can be made from Styrofoam meat trays and slide onto the pots to cut out the light on the matting blanket.

You will find more light reflecting off the white Styrofoam and also the humidity can be kept in better control.

Regional Reviews

(Part 2)

compiled by **Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Dr.

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

email: Patter257@aol.com

*We are honored to feature a review from **Cynthia De Correa** of Panama. You will never meet a more friendly, polite individual, with more unique growing conditions. Cynthia is well-known to convention goers as she attends nearly every convention. Please note her most successful plants, the good ones will never go away!*

I grow my violets in my basement/garage area; it's an open area, not enclosed. So, it's natural light growth for them, no air conditioning or fans here. The temperature is normally about 84°F. Our seasons are but two: Rainy and Dry. For the past few months the temperature has been fluctuating between 85° and 95° F. It has been challenging keeping the plants happy.

I've grown quite successfully in Swift's Moist-Rite planters, but lately I set the pots in saucers with pebbles in them. I hand water individually every couple of days using any of the following. Peters 12-36-24, Rapid Grow, Schultz, Superthrive and Allegro. The soil I use is commercial African violet soil mix, with more perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, Dolomite lime and superphosphate added.

I grow the standards, have not had much luck with the minis. The leaves I brought back from Sacramento produced babies, I separated, potted them up, and they were doing fine for a couple months, then they all began to wilt and die. Can't figure out what happened. I have been growing violets for over twenty years. Must be the heat.

My most successful plants have been, 'The King', 'Ballet Marta', 'Mark', 'Crystallaire' and 'Carla' (Hammond), which I lost and cannot locate anywhere. It's a lovely rose pink color, with white picotee edge.

*It is with great pleasure that I introduce **Helen Barrett** of Wichita, KS. Helen grows perfect plants in great abundance. She is a great contributor to the organizations of which she is a member. Helen's husband, Warren, is the engineer, often inventing unique ways to address specific problems they encounter in their violet hobby.*

Our plants are grown in our finished basement. Sixteen shelves are in the plant room. Nine shelves are in other parts of the house. Fifteen shelves have capillary matting and ten shelves use individual reservoirs. We like to grow standards for show in self-watering pots. Everything is wicked with nylon, #18 cord. We use 1 strand for starter plants; 3 strands for larger plants.

Our soil mix is: 2 parts Volkmann's regular mix

1 part vermiculite

1 part perlite

All plants are fertilized with the same fertilizer - 1/4 teaspoon Volkmann's 15-30-15, plus 1 drop of Superthrive to one gallon water. The water is allowed to sit at least overnight to let some of the chlorine evaporate. After dis-budding for a show we use a bloom booster 10-60-10 for about two weeks and it seems to give more and larger blooms. We switch to a 20-20-20 fertilizer if we have some leaves that seems a too light green.

The temperature of our house stays about 70° to 75° and the humidity about 50% in the plant room and 40% in the rest of the house.

Our lights are on 11 hours a day except when we are getting ready for a show; then they are gradually increased to 14 hours. We use 40 watt Cool white bulbs almost exclusively but have experimented with more expensive bulbs.

Leaves, suckers and new plants are started in seed starter boxes (with clear plastic domes). Leaves stay in the boxes until they are ready for plants to be removed; new plants and suckers stay in the boxes for one month. The boxes are kept on a top shelf where it is warmest.

We like working with trailers and like to grow them in shallow pots. We buy pot saucers; make drainage holes and put 1 or 2 wicks in them. They seem to do very well on the capillary matting.

Two of our favorites are two oldies: 'Adeara', a miniature trailer, is a very sparse bloomer but has beautiful variegated foliage and 'Pixie Blue', a miniature trailer that produces many blue blossoms. Warren's personal favorite is 'Irish Flirt' and mine is 'Ness's Coral Sunset'. We grow many

of the Munk's Apache series and have won several Best in Show awards with these plants.

The best treatment that we give our plants is lots of love and attention. And keeping everything CLEAN! CLEAN! CLEAN!

Our expert from the high country is Nelly Levine, whose name always appears in show reports; evidence of her outstanding growing abilities! As Nelly explains, growing in the mountains is not without problems. Practicality highlights her review, as do her candid thoughts on hybrids.

I live in Arvada, a suburb of the mile high city of Denver, Colorado. Our climate is mostly dry year 'round but in the winter, with the heating system on, it is so dry that we run a humidifier on the furnace as well as a humidifier in the basement where my African violets are grown. The humidifier maintains the level at 50-55%. We do not have air conditioning as the nights, even during the hottest weather, are cool. During the summer we normally have 20-30 days in the 90's and this does affect the plants. They don't bloom well and get tight centers. I do cut down on fertilizer and light during these hot periods. The night-time temperature is usually 65° degrees and day-time temperatures range from 70-80° depending on the season.

Watering:

The large plants are wicked and on individual reservoirs or grown in Oyama pots. The semis, minis, starters and trailers are also wicked but grown in matted trays. The species are grown on a shelf partially covered with plastic to provide more humidity. For constant growing I use Peters 20-20-20 or Rapid Gro 23-19-17 or Dyna Grow 7-9-5 on the standards. For the minis and semis I use Peters 12-36-14 or Miracle Gro 15-30-15. Several times a year, at the appropriate time before a show and a sale, I use Peters 5-50-17, just letting it flow through the soil, to boost the bloom on the standards and trailers. I like switching fertilizers. That way, whatever micro ingredients are missing in some, are added with others. The Ph of our water is higher than African violets like it, so I add 1 T. of white vinegar to each gallon of fertilized water.

Lights:

Most of my fixtures are 4', some are 8'. I use a cool white and a WS Gro-lux together. Normally the lights are on 10 hours each day. I gradually increase the time by one hour eight weeks before a show to a maximum of 14 hours each day then decrease one hour at a time after shows.

Growing Problems

Besides tight centers from the hot weather, my plants sometimes get mildew in the spring and fall because of the

cold nights. I have a timer on my fan and increase the time to 30 minutes every hour, rather than 15 minutes. I keep a bottle of Funginex handy to spray whenever I find some mildew. One application usually suffices.

Soil Mix:

- 16 cups pro mix (mostly peat)
- 8 cups perlite
- 4 cups vermiculate
- 1/2 cup dehydrated cow manure
- 1 cup horticultural charcoal
- 1 T. bone meal
- 1/8 T. trace elements

1 cup diatomaceous earth (because I bought a big bag years ago and I'm trying to use it up. I don't think it affects the mealy bugs.)

I wet this mixture down with warm water with 1 T. Superthrive and 2 T. Allegro added.

Plants grown:

'Private Dancer'- A variegated standard by Sorano with beautiful ruffled double dark blue blossoms with a raspberry edge. Lots of blossoms per stem and great symmetry. Fast growing and nice contrast between blossoms and foliage.

'Lilac Spray'- A standard by Swift. This plant has huge lilac semidouble blossoms with darker shading on the edges and a thin white ruffled edge. It has not stopped blooming since I bought it. The foliage is plain green and serrated and forms a good rosette.

'Buckeye Bouquet'- A variegated standard by Hancock. The blossoms are a carnation type, light lavender with purple fantasy. So far only two blossoms per stem but they are large. This plant received a culture shock when it came to my house but is now doing very nicely.

'Mars'- This small growing standard is by Volkmann. The blossoms are described as red, mine are splattered with a purple edge. Very floriferous on medium green foliage.

'Little Shimmer'- A green leafed semi-miniature by Sorano. The foliage forms a nice rosette with pointed, serrated leaves. The amount of bloom was awesome, unfortunately the blossoms are pure double white instead of white with pink glittery marks.

'Indigo Doll' - Also a semi-miniature by Sorano. The foliage is almost girl type but shapes well. The semi-double blossoms are a bright dark red-purple, only two blossoms per stem.

Many of you are familiar with Reg and Dorothy Townsend of Australia, as they are frequent AVSA convention attendees. Successful growers, their shows feature huge quantities of violets and other gesneriads. Both Reg and Dorothy are qualified judges of African violets and other gesneriads in Australia and New Zealand.

Dorothy and I began growing African violets approximately 20 years ago when Dorothy was given an African violet for helping a friend. Our first African violets were grown in a spare room in the house and this was very successful as far as the temperature and pests were concerned. During this time we have had Best in Show on 10 occasions and numerous Semiminiature and Trailer major awards plus Most Successful Exhibitor Awards.

As our collection grew we decided to build a special room at the back of the house. The room is 21' x 12' and is single brick, lined inside with plaster. It has windows in three of the walls, two vents (whirlybirds) in the roof and an exhaust fan. The north facing window which gets all the sun is covered with window tint and there is also insulation in the roof. This has made little difference to the temperature during our hot summer which registers in the high 90°. A fan is also used to circulate the air.

Our African violet stands are 5' x 2', four tiers high. The space between the shelves is 20". The light fittings are 4' long with one Gro-lux and one cool white on each shelf. We run the lights for approximately 12 hours a day. There are 28 shelves in the room. We also have a three tier stand in our garage which we use to quarantine any new plants and plants that have been to meetings. Another three tier stand is on our back veranda for plants we have to give special care along with some other special gesneriads.

Our leaves and starter plants are grown in communi-

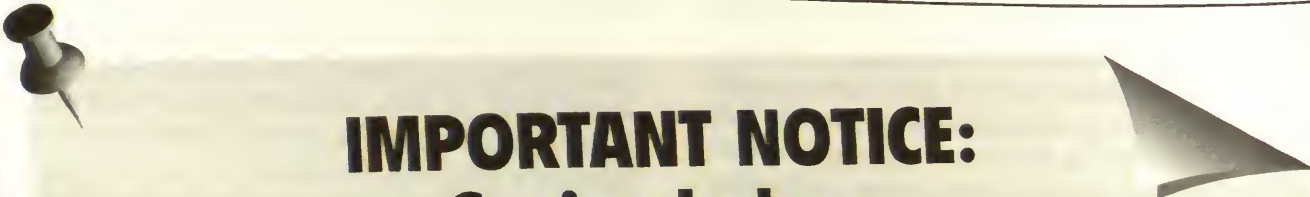
ty trays (Texas style) on a high nitrogen fertilizer. When they are potted up they are grown on individual containers to stop any cross contamination and we change our fertilizer to Kenrose or Gro-Max, which is similar to Peters. All individual plants are wick watered using 8 ply acrylic wool which has been soaked in a little water to which a drop of detergent is added. This improves the capillary action.

Our potting mix consists of three parts German peat moss, 1 1/2 parts perlite, 1 1/2 parts vermiculite, 1/2 part charcoal, a small amount of trace elements and a little blood and bone and sufficient dolomite to bring the Ph to natural.

Our latest imports from Sacramento are out of quarantine (three months) and have produced plantlets. The varieties showing promise are 'Texas Space Dust', 'Dean's Ivory Lace', 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' and 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet'. It is a little early to appraise the standards.

Previous varieties we have imported, that have done well for us and other exhibitors are, 'Ocean Eyes' (Best in Show 6 times) 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', 'Rob's Sticky Wicket', 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot', 'Tomahawk', 'Teen Sweetheart' and 'Rob's Toorooka', to name a few.

Some Australian hybrids we would recommend are 'Colonial Mt. Remarkable' (white), 'Colonial Roseworthy' (pink), 'Milang Skies' (med. blue on variegated foliage) and 'Colonial Werris Creek' (white with a pink eye).



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Senior Judges

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and Sept. 1, 1999. Send request to Frances King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. Include check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) and proof of three blue ribbons earned on 3" x 5" card(s) as per AVSA Handbook. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination for grading must be returned before Oct. 1, 1999.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50, (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned recorded on 3" X 5" cards per AVSA Handbook.

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included.

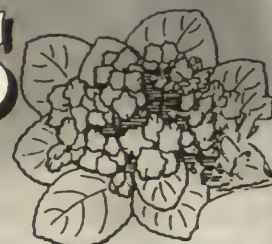
Applications postmarked after September 1, 1999 will be returned and application may be made next year.

Completed exams postmarked after Oct. 1, 1999 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 1999) for grading and return of examination.



GREEN AND BROWN THUMBS

by Hal McKain, Ph.D.
Lamont, IA



About five years ago I selected the most beautiful African violet plant in the florist shop. I gave it to my wife as a complete surprise, no holidays involved.

With close adherence to the suggestions in *The African Violet Magazine* I have kept it flourishing. Also, it has parented about one hundred leaf starts. Most every one of these starts resulted in a person becoming a happy owner of a one-year-old, blooming African violet plant.

As you can easily imagine some plants that were given away died, some thrived and the others fell some where in between. The owner whose plant died was automatically given the sad title "brown thumb" and, those whose African violet thrived received the exciting title, "green thumb".

For the fun of it I figured out how many times I had handled the latest plant and it's parent plants. The figures looked something like this: 5 years times 60 handlings equaled 300 times that I had nurtured the plants. In each of it's stages I practiced everything I had read in the *African Violet Magazine* and learned from my "green thumb" son, David. (By the way he was the one who gave me my first subscription.) Come to think of it 300 times sounds like a lot of work for the right to give away one mature, flowering African violet, but believe me, it is well worth it.

Instead of promoting the "green thumb" concept I hope some how we can help people understand the importance of good, personal, growing characteristics such as patience, consistency, following directions, becoming informed, etc. This would help them all marvel in the title, "Green Thumb".

When I give away a plant, I include a bottle of fertilized water and a note on how to take care of it. Probably the smartest thing I could do is to include a subscription to *The African Violet Society of America, Inc.* After all, this is what my son did for me a few years ago and look at what a

wonderful African violet "nut" I have become.

In the past few years the *African Violet Magazine* has given me a couple of other opportunities to share some of my fun and exciting experiences of giving away African violets. I want to share a contemporary testimony with you about some violets bringing bank employees happiness after a couple bank robberies. Yes, I said bank *robberies!*

Our bank in Lamoni, IA, was robbed in the summer of '98. It was a sad, scary event! Thank goodness no one was injured and the robbers were later captured.

About a week later I took a big box with 5 blooming, beautiful violets of different colors down to the bank with a note saying, "Some come to steal but I come to heal." The violets were well received with many words of kindness, and some smiles and compliments.

This January, our bank was again robbed! Also, this time, no one in the bank was injured and the suspected bank robbers were apprehended. Now surveillance cameras and other safety devices have been installed in the bank.

I took another box of African violets to the bank. As soon as I walked through the door a smiling employee loudly said, "I know what is in that box." After I opened the box I jokingly said, "We don't have to have a bank robbery just to get me to bring violets." They all laughed, but I changed the tone of the conversation by expressing to them how sad I was that they had to go through such a traumatic experience. Trust and security had been stolen from them, never to return. I told them I honestly felt a lot of compassion for them.

Live, blooming African violets carry with them a lot of redeeming value. Yes, in this case they did, "help heal what others came to steal", which was not only money, but their peace of mind. I will keep these good friends in my prayers as well as report their African violets.

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601
email dot3joe@earthlink.net

This is the time when we normally enjoy our plants the most. It's cold outside, yet warm and green inside the shop and glasshouse. Business is dreadfully slow, and we live in poverty for most of the winter, but we can work on the plants at a more leisurely pace and enjoy them more. With the cooler conditions, the colors seem to be brighter and more intense and foliage and bloom stay fresh for a very long time. Maybe it's just the absence of colors outside that makes everything inside look so beautiful.

Remember that if you'd like a personal reply to a question, it's best to phone us during our regular business hours. We're more than willing to "talk and walk", but simply don't have the time to respond to all of the written letters or e-mails. We do read all of our mail, though. Should you want to e-mail us, do so at <robsviolet@aol.com>. For basic culture information and "how to" lessons, you might also want to check out our web-site at <www.robsviolet.com>.

QUESTION: *I have a lovely decorative pot, and would like to pot three miniature violets, together, into it. The pot is about 10" wide and has drainage holes. Can I do this?*

ANSWER: Yes and no. So long as the violets are otherwise properly cared for, they can be potted together into the same pot. One thing to be careful of is watering, since these violets will be greatly overpotted. Though the foliage of three miniature violets would easily cover the surface of a 10" container, their root systems would not be able to fill this size pot. The volume of soil in this pot is far more than that in the individual pots of the three minis combined. Also, remember that violets will grow better when not crowded together and forced to compete for space. When crowded together, foliage doesn't always develop fully or normally, and plants need to compete for light, water, and nutrients.

If you still would like to put three violets together into one pot, I would suggest keeping them in their own individual pots, then placing them into the larger container. At least, this will reduce the likelihood of overwatering, since the root systems of the individual plants would remain in the proper size pots. This would also allow you to easily replace one plant with another at a future time, keeping the "arrangement" always looking its best. Probably the best solution, if you choose to fill the large container with soil and plant a violet into it, would be to use a trailing variety. Since trailing varieties, by their nature, are spreading plants, they can more easily fill such a large diameter container. They still produce shallow root systems, though, so the depth of the container could be a concern. If more than a few inches deep, fill the bottom with a very porous, well draining material, such as perlite. A standard-size trailing variety would mostly quickly grow and fill this size container, and would likely be the easiest to grow. Mini and semiminature trailers would also grow to fill the container, but would take much more time to do so.

QUESTION: *Can I reuse a leaf cutting?*

ANSWER: Sure. After removing and potting plantlets, the "mother" leaf can be rerooted. It will still be capable of producing more plantlets, though it may not produce as many the next time around. Usually, it's more productive to simply wait until the plantlets grow large enough to have leaves removed and propagated. Plus, most of us have too many plants already without finding ways of producing more! There are times, though, when reusing a leaf might be necessary. Some varieties, for example, are particularly unstable and tend to produce plantlets that won't bloom as described. In this case, it might be better to reuse a leaf that is known to have come from a true-blooming plant, rather than use leaves from plantlets that may not

be true (though its possible that the mother leaf won't produce 'true' plants the second time around, either).

Reusing a leaf might also be desirable when this is the last of a hard to find variety, and can act as insurance, should the plantlets fail to survive.

Should you decide to do this, leave a longer than normal petiole when rooting the leaf the first time. This will allow you to recut the petiole, at a shorter length, the next time around. If possible, younger, more supple, leaves are better, since the leaf will tend to become tough and leathery with age, and will produce fewer plantlets as this happens.

QUESTION: *I just bought some violets, and need some idea of how to care for them. If I happen to over-water them, do I just need to drain the water from the bottom? Some of the leaves look almost black and I am afraid of killing it.*

ANSWER: Yes. I assume this means discarding the unused water in the saucer. It's best not to leave plants sitting in water, unless the soil mix being used is very light and porous. Again, the rule of thumb is, the wetter you plan on keeping the plant, the lighter the soil mix should be. One reason why light, soilless, mixes are so often recommended is because they allow the grower to occasionally overwater without doing much harm to the plant. In the extreme, a plant could be grown in nothing but pebbles (an extremely light mix), kept standing in water all of the time - i.e. hydroponically.

What concerns me is your saying that the leaves look "almost black". Soft, "mushy", black leaves are a symptom of overwatering. Remember that leaves can appear soft and wilted, yet the plant may not need watering. If the plant has a wilted look, yet still has moist soil, don't water it. Instead, observe it for another day or two and see if its condition improves. If it doesn't, or leaves begin to turn black and rot off, the problem is more serious. If the soil is very wet, remove the plant from its pot and lay it on some newspaper to let it dry. Remove the rotted leaves, since these likely won't recover. As the soil begins to dry, the remaining foliage should become more firm and fresher looking. At this point, repot the plant into fresh soil, being sure to use a pot no larger than the root system itself. After repotting, water more sparingly than normal, until new roots have grown into the added soil.

The old "dry to the touch" rule is worth remembering. Ideally, violets would like to be slightly moist at all times. This means watering when the surface of the soil is dry, and not before. Here at our shop, when we teach someone new how to water our plants, we tell them to thoroughly water all plants where the surface of the soil is dry, sparingly water those whose soil surface is slightly moist, and not water at all those whose soil is still damp. If a light

enough soil mix is used, most plants can survive an occasional unnecessary watering, but won't survive when this is done two or three times consecutively.

QUESTION: *How do you ship an African violet?*

ANSWER: This is something we get asked a lot at the shop. Though we do this as part of our business, it's something anyone can do. After all, many of our customers ask us to ship plants as gifts to relatives or friends, when they grow violets themselves, and could easily do the same. Violets are fragile, but not as much as you might think. With a careful packing, they can be easily and safely shipped almost anywhere. Here's how we do it.

Since the package is certain to spend much of its time traveling "upside-down", you need to keep the soil from coming out of the pot and making a huge mess of the plant and box. We do this by making a plastic "collar" that we fit over the top of the pot, underneath the leaves. Cut a piece of plastic (from a trash bag, for example) that is twice as big as the pot. Cut a slit in the plastic from one edge, stopping at the center. Then slide this over the surface of the soil, beneath the leaves. The neck goes into the slit, so that the collar should slide easily and snugly around it. Being sure the collar covers the soil completely, fold the edges over the pot rim and secure them with tape or rubber band (we use the latter) to the pot. Next, find a sheet of stiff, yet soft, paper, twice as tall and wide as the plant's diameter (we use newspaper). Gently bending the leaves upwards, place the plant against the paper and roll it into a paper cone, leaving excess paper both above and below the plant. Then seal both ends with tape or staples. This will keep the plant from sliding out of the paper cone, and insulate it a bit. Use a box that won't be crushed when placed on the bottom of a pile of heavier boxes. When placing the wrapped plants in your box, it is better to slightly overpack. Be sure that whatever material that fills the remainder of the box won't settle or move during shipping. Pack as tightly as possible without crushing the plant, yet tightly enough so that the plant cannot move. If shipping during unusually warm or cold weather, you might want to insulate the box - we line the interior with fiberglass insulation. Label the box as very fragile, though you don't need to mention its contents (in some states this only gives someone an excuse to want to examine it). Remember too, that labeling isn't a good substitute for good packing - your package will still spend time being tossed around. Lastly, unless it's being sent as a surprise, it might be a good idea to call ahead and tell the recipient of its arrival, so that it spends as little time as possible exposed to the weather on their front doorstep.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
2 Sun. 2:36 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
3 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
4 Tue. 3:12 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
5 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
6 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
7 Fri. 2:40 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
8 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 12:28 pm
9 Sun. 11:16 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
10 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
11 Tue. 3:54 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
12 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
13 Thu. 4:57 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
14 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
15 Sat. 4:08 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 7:06 am
16 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
17 Mon. 3:40 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
19 Wed. 5:38 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
20 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
21 Fri. 11:16 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
22 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 12:35 am
23 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
24 Mon. 8:29 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
25 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Wed. 8:05 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
27 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
28 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
29 Sat. 8:37 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
30 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	Full 1:40 am
31 Mon. 9:06 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd

June Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
2 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
3 Thu. 8:37 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
4 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
5 Sat. 6:01 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th 11:21 pm
7 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
8 Tue. 12:09 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
9 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Thu. 2:44 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
11 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
12 Sat. 2:49 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
13 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 2:03 pm
14 Mon. 2:14 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
16 Wed. 3:07 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
17 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
18 Fri. 7:12 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
19 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
20 Sun. 3:10 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd 1:13 pm
21 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
22 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
23 Wed. 2:18 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
25 Fri. 2:51 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
28 Mon. 3:12 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 4:38 pm
29 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
30 Wed. 2:20 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

Miraculous Mildew Muncher

by Catherine Thompson • Cedar Falls, IA

Mildew—that powdery nasty white stuff that appears on your violet leaves, stems and blossoms.

I have battled mildew for many years, especially in the spring and fall, and I've tried lots of remedies and chemicals. I thought I had it solved when I mixed 1 tsp. Lysol with a quart of water. It worked, all right, but it damaged the crowns of my plants. I even tried the "old wives tale" method of putting powdered sulfur in bottle caps among the plants – then watched a round mildew patch grow on a leaf less than an inch from the sulfur!

But I knew that these old wive's tales often contain a grain of truth. I started experimenting. What if I mixed the sulfur in water and sprayed it? Well, if you have ever tried to mix dry sulfur and water, you'll find as I did, that they *don't* mix. The sulfur stubbornly floats to the top. So I added drops of Safer's Soap and shook it, and shook it and shook it! As long as I shook *and* sprayed, I got good coverage. The

plants were just misted, not sprayed to runoff.

The mildew disappeared! Better yet, it stayed away! In over a year I haven't seen any except on new plants brought into my collection. I asked two other club members, Marilyn Thornton and Verna Schofield, to test my concoction. They, too, had good results, and Marilyn discovered it was much easier to mix with very hot water. We've found that the solution lasts for at least a year. (Works great to keep mildew off refrigerator gaskets, too.) Here's the recipe:

3 drops Safer's Soap

1/2 tsp. sulfur sublimed (available from drug stores)

2 cups hot water

I guess the moral is never underestimate an "old wives tale"!

My Tough 'Phobos'

by Anne Herbatuk
Laval, Quebec, Canada

October is the month here in Laval, Quebec, when I slowly start cleaning up sections of the garden; cutting, pruning, discarding, planting spring bulbs, and so on.

I decided to clean up around the small pond and to turn off the water that cascaded over the rocks. All of the house plants hanging from tree limbs around the pond were brought indoors.

How surprised I was to find one of my African violet plants nestled between the moss-covered rocks, smiling up at me. I had forgotten about 'Phobos' being there all summer!

With the sun filtering through the trees, the high humidity from being so close to the pond, and the gentle hosing

with water, 'Phobos' had a nice long vacation from the other violets that were growing on stands inside the house.

It came about in May, when I had taken 'Phobos' outside to show a neighbor. It was full of beautiful blooms; wine colored, splashed with white. As we were having coffee outside, I placed 'Phobos' near the ferns, set firmly between the rocks. The day wore on, the months flew by, and 'Phobos' was on her own.

African violets tough? Don't let anyone tell me they are not! Even neglected, they have a strong will to live. Of course, now 'Phobos' is getting lots of TLC and has forgiven me. In fact, her leaves are having babies!



Educate, Educate, Educate

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*
17415 Charter Pines Drive • Monument, CO 80132
<clubs@avsa.org>

Educating the public is indeed another way to attract new club members. The more a person knows, the better he grows his plants and the more interested he becomes in joining a local affiliate as well as AVSA. In continuing our series on creative ways of attracting new members, this column will focus on ways to attract new members to both AVSA and the local affiliate. People are definitely encouraged by success. Who can resist growing more African violets after seeing and/or having success in growing one of these beautiful plants?

I have given many lectures on "The Care and Culture" of African violets. As people learn, they become interested in learning more. Learning produces improvement and success. The lectures and the education attracted new members to our local club. Thus, more members, more workers, more people entering our local shows, AND more AVSA members.

I suggest taking advantage of every opportunity the members in your affiliate have to share the knowledge and love of the African violet. Send out letters to local nurseries offering to give a Saturday or evening workshop. Many nurseries are only too happy to cooperate. Some of them even have a newsletter and/or bulletin board which they use to advertise. Visit any local horticulture centers and botanical gardens to offer your knowledge. The centers and gardens also have their own methods of advertising through newsletters and flyers inside their facility. Be available to military groups, garden clubs, senior citizen centers, other specialty flower groups, and church groups. All are looking for new and different programs and speakers. All offer the potential for new members.

Some of you may be thinking, "Oh, no, I don't speak before groups." Just focus on the potential new members and the opportunity to share your knowledge and love of the African violet. It might surprise you to find out how fun it is to share and get to know other people interested in your hobby. There is an excellent article in the July 1995 issue of The African Violet Magazine entitled, "Know How to Show How" by Barbara Pershing. Barbara shares some good pointers on presenting a program, all of which are very helpful to even a novice speaker.

Consider some of the following:

1. Have one, or a group of your most knowledgeable speakers lead the lecture, demonstration or presentation.
2. Keep your presentation basic, simple and clear. Most of the people who will be attending will not be interested in showing African violets. They want to know how to improve the look of the violet on their window sill, keep it alive and in bloom.
3. Consider using the basics of growing African violets as listed and discussed in The African Violet Society of America Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges, "Growing and Grooming African Violets."
4. Prepare clumps of rooted leaves to separate and share with those in attendance. Leaves will also work if you have time to show the guests how to propagate them.
5. Set up a display of the different types and colors of African violets to illustrate the wide variety available.
6. Check out the products available in the nursery hosting your presentation so that you can share their availability with those in attendance.
7. Invite additional members of your club to be available to assist. They could be called upon to share their soil mix, to help separate the clumps and pot them into small containers to share, to mingle with the guests and answer individual questions. This is also a good opportunity for some of your new members to learn more about the basics.
8. Don't forget to have AVSA culture folders available to hand out. You can even encourage the guests to join AVSA if they don't think they have time or interest in a local club.
9. Have copies of the *African Violet Magazine* that you can show and/or share. (Remember, back copies of the magazine are available through the AVSA office for the cost of postage.) I always make several references to the magazine during any presentation.
10. Consider a follow-up program on propagation. You might prepare it as a workshop in which those in attendance learn to plant leaves, separate and transplant babies grown in advance by your members.

11. Some program topics that work well include the care and culture of the African violet, propagation methods of the African violet (including leaf, seed, and blossom stalk) and the other more common gesneriads. I was once convinced to do all three (three months in a row) for a local garden club. They kept asking me what I could speak to them on the following month. Everyone is interested in a different program.

I want to thank those of you who have taken advantage of the opportunity to list your affiliate information on the AVSA web site. I urge all of you to do so. I regularly receive requests from people concerning affiliates that are not listed. What should you do? First, check the AVSA web site at <http://www.avsa.org/affiliates> to see if the information for your affiliate is listed, correct and current. If not, how can you get it listed or corrected? There are three ways: (1) you can make sure that you returned the "Affiliate Update Form" that your president received with the affiliate insurance information last fall, (2) you can check the affiliate column in the September 1998 issue of the magazine to confirm the information needed and send it to me as listed above, or (3) you can e-mail me at <clubs@avsa.org> and I will e-mail you a list of the information that is needed.

Another means of finding new members is by requesting a list of the AVSA members in your area. The Florida African Violet Council was one of the clubs that took advantage of the offer written by John Carter in the March 1998 issue of the magazine. The African Violet Council of Florida requested the list of AVSA members in Florida, compared it against their list of members, divided the list among all the affiliates in Florida and sent letters of invitation with membership applications to all who were not already Council members. There were approximately 500 letters mailed and in less than two months, the Council had twenty six new members. If you want this information for your area, just mail or e-mail me a list of zip codes and/or cities that are local to your area. If you are a state council and would like the state listing, just specify the state.

Before I close, I want to thank all the affiliates who had a part in making the Houston convention one to remember. It was wonderful to meet so many new faces, to match faces to names with whom I've corresponded this past year and to renew friendships from the past. I want to thank everyone who attended the Affiliate meeting. Your ideas and questions were invaluable. I hope you all enjoyed the meeting and returned to your affiliates with ideas to make your club and members truly "Affiliate Fit."

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS 1 DECEMBER '98 - 31 JANUARY '99

Nancy Sneed, Copperas Cove, TX	\$10.00
Elizabeth Burke, New Providence, NJ	5.00
Bakersfield AVS, Bakersfield, CA	25.00
Amy Killmeyer, Pittsburgh, PA	2.00
Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	50.00
Anna Noe, Winthrop, MA	10.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Menomonee Falls, WI	25.00
Kay Mitchell, Goldsboro, NC	5.00
Cristina Statovici, San Jose, CA	10.00
Joan Eagleton, Paducah, KY	2.00
Gari Whesdos, Las Vegas, NV	5.00
Judith Clendenin, Menlo Park, CA	25.00
Christine Davis, Harrison, ME	5.00
Barbara Allsup, Anchorage, AK	5.00
Bonnie Journell, Greencastle, IN	5.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX	10.00
<i>In fond memory of I. Faye Shepard - a dear friend and African violet enthusiast.</i>	
Florence Schnauffer, Baldwin, NY	5.00
Veronica Corson, Saint Albert, Canada	10.00
Jane Leffler, Sanborn, NY	5.00
Karen Holcik, Alsip, IL	2.00
Wilma Waterstreet, Sturgeon Bay, WI	2.00
Laurel Goretsky, Calgary, Canada	10.00
Helen Girod, Bryant, WI	5.00
Stella Richardson, Riverside, CA	10.00
Onalee McEwen, Houston, TX	10.00

Flowerstown Violet Club, Summerville, SC	\$20.00
Helen Wamsley, Pitkin, LA	2.00
Mrs. Oran Crouch, Denton, TX	15.00
Denise Fortain, La Verne, CA	5.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	5.00
Frankie Pletzer, Beaumont, TX	10.00
Mr. Carroll McCarroll, Los Angeles, CA	16.00
Billings Bloomers AVC, Billings, MT	10.00
Mrs. John Krouse, Plainfield, NJ	2.00
Ovella Ruth Hall, Hot Springs National Park, AR	15.00
Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI	10.00
Marjorie Dunner, Longmont, CO	5.00

A memorial to Grace Steinbe.

Kay Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	10.00
Carolyn McKenzie, Port Huron, MI	5.00
Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	10.00
Janet Robertson, Seal Beach, CA	25.00
Suzanne Coppel, New York, NY	5.00
Doris Jolley, Batesville, MS	10.00
Edna Snow, Chicago, IL	20.00
<i>In memory of my mother.</i>	
La Vella Reynolds, Springfield, MO	10.00
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA	5.00
Maralyn Nunnery, Azusa, CA	10.00
Mrs. Edward Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ	20.00
Cecelia Winfield, North Brunswick, NJ	10.00

TOTAL. \$513.00

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

When your new plant lists arrived this spring, what was the first thing you looked for? Was it the list of the new cultivars? Or was it the list of the hybridizers whose plants were carried by that commercial grower? A typical pattern for the new grower of African violets is to choose plants of different types produced by many different hybridizers. In this way, they soon learn which types of plants they like most (miniatures, trailers, fantasy flowers, etc.) and which hybridizers produce plants that grow well in their set of growing conditions. While the more experienced grower may still maintain a wide collection of plants from many sources, it is not uncommon for them to focus on particular hybridizers whose plants have been consistent performers. As space and resources become limited, these growers often find themselves seeking out new plants only from these specific hybridizers. As a result of this selection process, many hybridizers have chosen "name lines" to identify their plants. Once a grower has linked the names and hybridizers together with consistently performing plants, they'll usually look for new plants by that name line. Check out the commercial ads in this month's African Violet Magazine or the way a commercial grower has organized his catalog and you'll see what I mean.

Q: One of my seedling plants is occasionally producing center petals that roll in to a "trumpet" shape. Can this trait be selected for?

A: Plants with semi-double flowers will sometimes produce odd-shaped center petals which roll into tubes or "trumpets". While this growth pattern is genetic in origin, it is highly dependent on environmental influences such as the size of the flower, the flower's position on the bloom stalk, and other factors. Therefore, I doubt if the trait could be

stabilized so that it is consistently produced in every bloom. However, you might try self-pollinating the plant and see what happens in the offspring. If the trait increases in occurrence in the offspring, then selecting for the trait for several generations might eventually stabilize the trait so that it appears in all the blooms. Good luck!

Q: I have a plant with light colored flowers that have darker tips. What can I cross with this plant to produce a darker colored bloom with the dark tips?

A: There are two separate problems here: 1) light colored blooms are dominant to dark colored blooms and 2) dark tips are a genetic recessive to no tips. The combination of darker colored bloom with dark tips would, therefore, be a double recessive condition. This will be hard to breed for.

Try crossing your light colored flowers with dark tips to a darker colored bloom that lacks the tips. The F1 offspring should be light colored blooms with no tips. Cross two of the best F1 offspring together, or self-pollinate the single best F1 offspring. About 1/16 or 6% of the F2 offspring should have the double recessive condition. Since the expected percentage of these plants is so low, be sure to grow out a large number of the F2 seedlings so that you get the double recessive ones you desire.

Q: One of my seedlings has anthers that are almost white in color. How is this trait inherited?

A: I have seen this trait in just a few plants, the best example being 'Frosted Whisper'. While I have not researched the trait for pale anthers, I would suspect that it might be linked with reduced flower color (hence the white blooms of 'Frosted Whisper') and it may be inherited as a genetic recessive.

Try crossing this seedling with a plant with medium or dark pink flowers. If the pale anther trait shows in the first generation in about half of the seedlings, it is being inherited as a genetic dominant. If none of the F1 offspring show the trait, try backcrossing some of the F1 offspring to the parent with pale anthers. If about half of the offspring in the backcross show pale anthers, then the trait is being inherited as a genetic recessive. If the pale anther trait is indeed linked with reduced flower color, then those offspring who have pale anthers should also have very pale or white flowers. Pale anthers is not a trait that is very common in African violets and knowing how it is inherited would be useful in producing more cultivars with this trait.

Q: In other plants, such as roses, hybridizers often show a detailed pedigree chart that covers several generations when they release a new cultivar. Why don't African violet hybridizers do the same thing?

A: I suspect that the reason may lie with the former registration system used for African violets. This system did not require the parents of a new plant to be listed at the time of registration. This system de-emphasized the parentage of a plant and hybridizers didn't gain much in sales by adver-

tising the pedigree of a new release. Hence, new plants were usually evaluated on their own merits, not that of their "bloodline". Another reason is that hybridizers may release several plants from the same cross and may not want the buying public to realize how closely related or similar some plants really are. Whatever the reason, I've found detailed pedigree charts to be of little value in evaluating the genetic potential of a new plant. The sexual reproduction process scrambles the traits so completely that you can potentially get a great plant from poor parents, or a lousy plant from very good parents. The records might be of use to hybridizers, but probably mean little to the buying public.

Q: What would be the best parent to use in a cross to bring out as many hidden recessive traits as possible?

A: I would suggest using a standard-sized dark pink flowered plant that has star-shaped single blooms and plain boy foliage. All of these traits are recessive and when crossed with another plant would potentially allow the hidden recessive traits of that plant to be expressed in the F1 offspring. Once the traits have been identified, they can be added to the genetic records of the test plant for reference in future crosses.



*Maybe you never thought of Omaha, Nebraska
as a place to "Go Wild" ... until now!*

*You can "Go Wild" with us by marking your calendar
for the first-ever Omaha AVSA Convention*

June 11-18, 2000.

*Watch for our friendly Gorilla in future issues and
learn about Omaha's wild side!*

Want to know more, now?

*Visit the Omaha Convention Bureau web site at
www.visitomaha.com.*

See yourself in Omaha a year from now!

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from November 30, 1998 - January 31, 1999

Columbus AVS, Columbus, OH	\$10.00
Master City African Violet & Gesneriad Society, Augusta, GA	85.00
<i>In lieu of judges expenses for Peg Phythyon</i>	
Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	50.00
Bella Vista AVS, Bella Vista, AR	10.00
<i>In memory of Don Hopkins, a charter member of BVAVS</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	10.00
Chun Miao Yeh, Taipei, Taiwan	4.50
Elizabeth Burke, New Providence, NJ	5.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, Tulsa, OK	25.00
<i>In memory of Mr. Gene Reifschneider</i>	
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Milwaukee, WI	25.00
Fancy Bloomers AVS, Santa Rosa, CA	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank Beeman</i>	
Jean Louis Villeneuve, Charlesbourg, Canada	5.00
Anna Noe, Winthrop, MA	5.00

Kay E. Mitchell, Goldsboro, NC	\$10.00
Barbara Allsup, Anchorage, AK	5.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	5.00
Debbie Sikes, Hubbard, OR	15.00
Gari Whesdos, Las Vegas, NV	5.00
Bermuda AVS, Hamilton, Bermuda	50.00
Karen Holcik, Alsip, IL	2.00
Jane E. Leffler, Sanborn, NY	5.00
Vicki Rivrud, Palm Harbor, FL	2.00
Betty Watenpugh, Bellevue, WA	5.00
Bruce Young, Ottawa, Canada	10.00
Laraine L. Meyers, Groton, CT	7.00
Covington AVS, Andalusia, AL	10.00
Leopoldo Leon, El Dorado, Panama	8.00
Helen K. Girod, Bryant, WI	1.00

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton

622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from December 1, 1998 - January 31, 1999

Northern California Council, Sacramento, CA	\$50.00
Cecil Gandy, Marshall, Texas	10.00
<i>In memory of Lois Wood</i>	
African Violet Society of North Jersey, Clifton, NJ	1217.57
<i>Club disbanded after 29 years</i>	
African Violet Society of Alexandria, Alexandria, LA	10.00
Wisconsin Council of African Violet Clubs, Minomonee Falls, WI	25.00
Los Angeles African Violet Society, Los Angeles, CA	30.00
<i>In celebration of 50th year</i>	
Mrs. Margaret Easches and Mrs. Helen Magill, St. Louis, MO	10.00
<i>In memory of Estelle Droste</i>	
Pomona Valley African Violet Society, Pomona, CA	190.00
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Jones, Durant, IA	50.00
Anna Noe, Winthrop, MA	5.00
Susan Meece, Amelia, OH	2.00
Joanie Sleeper, Wichita Falls, TX	22.00
Kay Mitchell, Goldsboro, NC	2.00
Sybil Herbrick, Gardena, CA	5.00
Barbara Allsup, Anchorage, AK	5.00
Christine Davis, Harrison, ME	5.00
Bonnie Journell, Greencastle, IN	5.00
Jean Peters, Cranford, NJ	5.00
Mr. Douglas Root, Victory Mills, NY	2.00
Gari Whesdos, Las Vegas, NV	5.00
Karen Holick, Alsip, IL	2.00
Jane Leffler, Sanborn, NY	5.00
Laurel Goretsky, Calgary, Alberta, Canada	10.00
Helen Girod, Bryant, WI	1.00
Dora Parla, Raytown, MO	10.00
George Landgren, Wilmette, IL	25.00
Frankie Pletzer, Beaumont, TX	10.00
Margie Geissler, Stafford, TX	7.00
Collins Griffith, Paradise Valley, AZ	10.00

Catherine Gauthier, Metairie, LA	\$5.00
Denise Fortain, La Verne, CA	5.00
Ann Wang, Santa Paula, CA	10.00
Onalee McEwen, Houston, TX	10.00
Mr. Carroll McCarrroll, Los Angeles, CA	16.00
Wilma Davis, Temple Hills, MD	20.00
Lynn Campo, Hamden, CT	7.00
Victoria Frey, Old Bridge, NJ	15.00
Billings Bloomers African Violet Society, Billings, MT	10.00
Mrs. John Krouse, Plainfield, NJ	15.00
Ovella Ruth Hall, Hot Springs National Park, AR	15.00
Maralyn Nunnery, Azusa, CA	10.00
Jean Marie Miller, Violets of the West, Arvada, CO	5.00
Cecelia Siedel, Hayward, CA	7.00
Mrs. John Roe, Madison, WI	10.00
Mary Lloyd, Lodi, CA	10.00
Fred Hill, Columbus, NJ	5.00
Doris Jean Shaw, Adelphi, MD	15.00
The Verbeau African Violet Club, Anacoco, LA	15.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI	5.00
Mrs. Gordon Kibbe, Longmeadow, MA	10.00
Leona Mendes, Cameron Park, CA	10.00
Mildred Patrick, Fort Walton Beach, FL	2.00
Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA	5.00
Delores Harrington, Fridley, MN	10.00
Mrs. Albert Koch, Clayton, MO	5.00
Mrs. D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT	10.00
Joe and Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL	10.00
Naomi Nolan, Brenham, TX	7.00
Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA	5.00
Eleanor Mattaliano, Eatontown, NJ	10.00

Total \$2029.57



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



African violet Seed Pods

by John Beaulieu
Barrie, Ontario, Canada



The first sign that a flower has been pollinated will be an enlargement of the ovary, as the seeds begin to develop.



As the seed pod develops, the petals will dry out but the stem will remain healthy.

Many hobbyists have never seen a seed pod on their African violets. If you are very attentive to your plants and keep all spent blooms pinched off, you probably never will see one. African violets are not that good at self pollinating on their own, because the pollen is not exposed like many other gesneriads. African violets have pollen sacs encasing the pollen.

If you are purposefully trying to hybridize or even just self pollinate a plant, you must break open these sacs to access the pollen. Tweezers are very useful for this. The pollen must be applied to the stigma. The pollen grains grow down the style into the ovary, where they fertilize the eggs. If you happen to have any pesky insects such as thrips on your plants, you may find pollinated flowers. Thrips feed on the pollen, and as they eat their way into the pollen sacs, they may allow the flower to be pollinated. In the wild, thrips are the natural pollinator of Saintpaulia (African violets).

When you are trying to pollinate, timing is everything. The pollen must be fresh and the stigma should be sticky for the powdery pollen to attach itself. You may have to try several flowers or try at different intervals of time before you have success.

Apply pollen to the stigma



Once pollination has occurred, you should notice that the ovary will begin to swell. You can see the cycle of growth in the series of photos to the left.

Seed pods may take as long as 6 to 8 months to develop and be ready to harvest. You must have a lot of patience with the African violets, as they take a lot longer than many other gesneri-



The dried petals have fallen away but these pods are still green and developing.



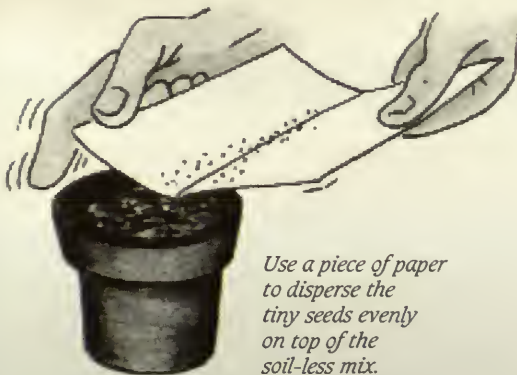
This pod has dried and turned brown, it is now ready for the harvesting of seeds.

ads. Some sinningia seed pods are ready in just over a month! The rule of thumb that I use for all gesneriad seed pods and berries, is to leave the pod on the plant until the stem going to the pod has dried out. Usually at this point the pod itself will have turned brown and be dried as well. The seeds can usually be harvested and sown at this point, but if you want to be sure, pick the pod and let it sit to dry for a couple more days before breaking it open.

All gesneriad seed is very tiny (like dust) so take care not to lose the seeds. A piece of card or paper is the best way to evenly sow the seeds on top of your soil-less mix. Never bury any gesneriad seeds.

You may have more seed than you want to sow at one time. Extra seed can be stored in the refrigerator. Try to keep the seed dry by storing it in small sealed containers. I find that the plastic 35mm film containers work well as would small pill containers. Label the seed with both the name of the plant (or plants in the case of hybridizing) and the date. The length of time that the seed will remain viable in the refrigerator can vary, but I have had some African violet seed germinate after 5 years!

Reprinted with permission from the African Violet and Gesneriad News - Barrie, Ontario, Canada



Use a piece of paper to disperse the tiny seeds evenly on top of the soil-less mix.



The germinating seeds need a clear cover to provide humidity and to prevent the mix from drying out. Pot up the seedlings when they are at a size you feel comfortable handling.



Showcase

Optimara Van Gogh

Exhibited by: Georgia Frush

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Standard



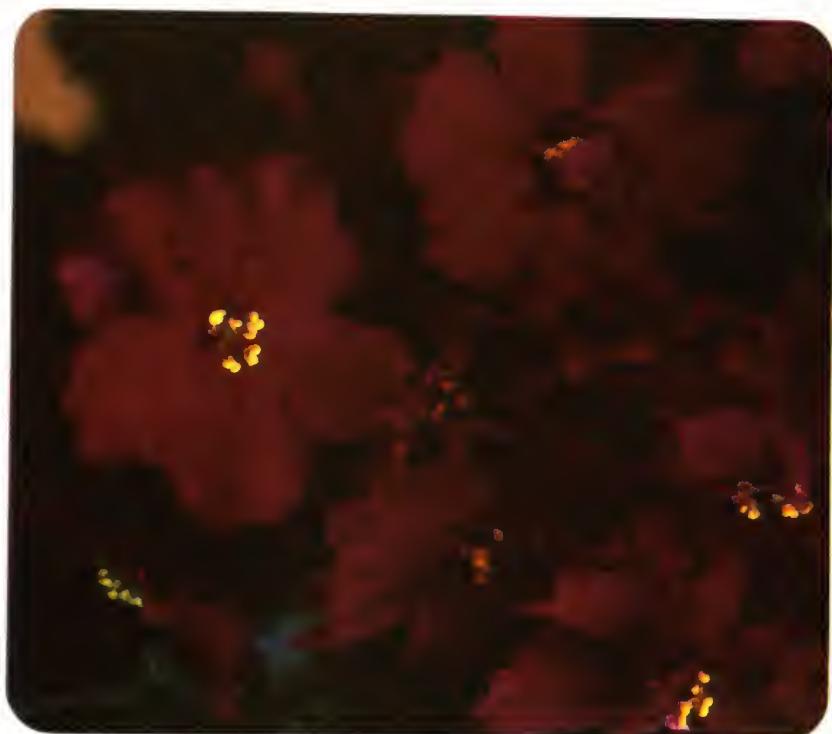
Rhapsodie Rose

Exhibited by: Jean McIlvanie

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Standard





Sedona

Exhibited by: Jean McIlvanie

Hybridized by: K. Stork

Large



Apache Blanket

Exhibited by: Barbara Elkin

Hybridized by: J. Munk

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Standard

1999 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

Vacation time is here, and many of our readers are making plans to travel this summer. Take a little extra time to visit an AVSA commercial member and see the latest varieties.

Several growers prefer to meet visitors by appointment

only. Please call or write ahead to confirm a time.

Any trip or vacation can be more enjoyable when an African violet stop is included in the itinerary.

Enjoy this list and have a safe trip.

Smith's Country Cottage AV's

Geoff. Smith
109 Ogden Parma T.L. Rd.
Spencerport, NY 14559
716-352-6445
10am-8pm (Mon.- Sat.)
Standard, mini violets, streps, columnea
Visitors welcome, please call first.
No mail order at present.

Martin Vette Nurseries

Russ Ireland, Jr.
6050 Northern Blvd.
East Norwich, NY 11732
516-922-5530
8am-6pm Complete horticulture center

Scotts Miracle Gro Products, Inc.

800 Port Washington Blvd.
Port Washington, NY 11050
516-883-6550
9am -5pm
Fertilizer

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

Paul Sorano
14 Mutchler St.
Dolgeville, NY 13529
515-429-8291
8am-4pm (Mon.- Fri.), 10am-4pm (Sat.),
Noon-4pm (Sun.)
African violets, streptocarpus, aeschynanthus,
nematanthus, codonanthe and more, gesneriads
and also orchids.
From Main St. in Dolgeville, turn on
Van Buren St., then onto Mutchler.

Violet Venture

Fay Wagman
52 Harper Dr. Pittsford, NY 14534
716-381-6384
By appointment - please call ahead. Violets and
an extensive variety of other gesneriads.

Rob's Mini-O-Lets

Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson
7209 County Rd. 12, Naples, NY 14512
716-374-8592
Noon - 5pm, every day, year round.
African violets, gesneriads, exotic houseplants
and orchids.
Web-site at www.robsviolet.com

VioletsFun Photo Journal

Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson
7209 County Rd. 12, Naples, NY 14512
716-374-8592
Noon - 5pm, every day, year round.
Bi-month magazine about African violets,
gesneriads and exotic houseplants.
Information: Email: violetsfun@aol.com

Violet Rainbow II

Melody Hartman
715 Kames Hill Rd.
Columbia, PA 17512
717-684-2169
By appointment.
African violet plants, leaves and supplies.
Located in Lancaster County, just minutes to the
Amish area.

Violet Rainbow III

Mahlen & Brenda Petry
1590 Cranberry Rd.
York Springs, PA 17372
717-528-8268
By appointment.
Violets, leaves, standards, minis, trailers, pots and soil.

Tinari Greenhouses

Frank & Anne Tinari
2325 Valley Rd.
Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215-947-0144 Fax: 215-947-2163
8am to 5pm (Mon.-Sat.), 1pm - 5pm (Sun.)
(Closed Sun. only from
May 30 to Sept., inclusive).
African violets, self-service greenhouse and gift shop.

Abigail's Garden

Abigail Eagle-Pence
P.O. Box 448
Haymarket, VA 20168
703-754-9416
Call first or visit Web-site at: www.advcs.com/abigail
Self-watering ceramic African violet pots, more
than 30 styles and sizes plus custom color,
Dyna-Gro distributor.
Email: AbbieP@aol.com

African Violets by Fredericks, Inc.

Alyce Droegge - Charlene Lentz
51 Union Otto Daycare Rd.
Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-4832 1-800-771-0899 orders
9am - 5pm (Mon.-Sat.), after April 1, 1999
African violets and other gesneriads, supplies,
greenhouses, shop. Shipping-Catalog.

Bluebird Greenhouse

Libbie Glembocki
4821 Jessie Rd.
Apex, NC 27502
919-362-0532
9am - 12pm or by appointment
Violets, orchids.
Please call or Email: Libbie@IBM.net

Linda's Lovely Stamps

Linda Colborn
P.O. Box 4423
Sebring, FL 33871-4423
941-471-1133
3-D postage stamps, .29 African Violet stamp.

Violets From The Starrs

George & Estelle Starr
2602 Graupera St.
Pensacola, FL 32507
850-456-2662
Catch us home or call for appointment.
Our emphasis is on the
"Starrlight African Violet Lamp"
Email: GBStarr@juno.com

Country Violets Greenhouse

Roy Henderson & Tony Collins
2010 Enon Rd.
Webb, AL 36376
334-899-7142
Open 7 days a week. Call for appointment. All violets.

H & H Enterprises

Mary (Jennie) Herrington
34 Oleta Dr.
Ellisville, MS 39437
601-763-9892
By appointment.
Ceramic self-watering African violet pots.
Also 9" and 12" leaf supports, Optimara African
violet food.
Email: airchuck@merlin.ebicom.net

Pat's Patch

Pat Hancock
P. O. Box 8085
West Chester, OH 45069
513-777-2524
By appointment.
"Buckeyes" "Colonials" "Apaches" & "Rodeos"
and many Canadians. Leaves only by mail.
Starter plants and larger, soil, pots. Oyam pots
available by pick-up.

African Violets by Don Geiss

Don Geiss
4957 W. Poverty Perch
Frederic, MI 49735
517-348-5657
Call for appointment.
800 plants, primarily standard, large variety colors.

Belisle's Violet House

Marcia Belisle
4041 N. Metrik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
715-945-2687
By appointment only.
Violets, other gesneriads, episcias, mini sinningias.

Midland Violets

Don & Jean Ness
3667 Midland Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-429-4109
By appointment only - please call.
African violet plants (Ness' hybrids).

A & W Violets

Art Transue, William Hall
8704 E. 92nd Place
Kansas City, MO 64138
816-765-5589
By appointment only.
Violets, all sizes, gesneriads. Mail order only
except by appointment.

Pat's Pets

Gary & Pat Dunlap
4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050
314-789-3604
By appointment.
African violets and other gesneriads.
Internet catalog at <http://www.wjcnl.com/patspets>

Dave's Violets

David Harris
1372 S. Kentwood Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804
417-887-8904
By appointment only - 7 days a week
(no appointments after 1pm).
African violets, gesneriads, big-blooming plants.
Only 35 miles north of Branson, come see me.

Sonja's Violets

Sonja J. Holm
15980 W. Warden Rd.
Omaha, Ark. 72662
870-426-1791
By appointment.
Standard plants, large blossoms.

Bayou Violets

Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Dr.
Metairie, LA 70005
Daily by appointment.
African violets and some supplies.

Teas Nursery (six locations in Texas)

4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire 713-664-4400
1445 W. Bay Area Blvd., Clear Lake 281-338-2050
10939 Katy Freeway, Memorial 713-467-0301
4545 Beechnut, Meyerland 713-665-6852
3600 SE Beltway, Pasadena 281-487-9783
25598 Interstate 45 N, Woodlands 281-367-2013
9am - 7pm (Mon.- Fri.)
9am - 6pm (Sat.- Sun.)
Everything for gardeners.
Web-site at www.teasnursery.com

Big Thicket Violets

Mark Mason
9037 Bussey Rd.
Silsbee, TX 77656
409-385-3423
By appointment.
Plants and supplies.
We are 20 minutes north of AVSA office.
Email: BTV97@aol.com

JoS Violets

Joanne Schrimsher
2205 College Dr.
Victoria, TX 77901
361-575-1344
By appointment.
African violets and cactus orchids.

Hill Country African Violets & Nursery

Ken Froboese
32005 L.H. 10 West
Boerne, TX 78006
830-249-2614 Fax: 830-249-8658
8am-6pm, 7 days a week.
Complete plant nursery - eleven greenhouses.
Retail only - no lists, no shipping. Thousands of
African violets, orchids and a whole lot more.

African Violet Shop

J.C. & Lenora Munk
2015 Bauer Dr.
Houston, TX 77080
713-468-0844
Call before coming, please!
Apache & Rodeo series.

Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.

Henry Volkmann & Walter Volkmann
2714 Minert St.
Dallas, TX 75219
214-526-3484
8am-4pm
African violets, plant stands, fertilizer, potting soil.

Volkmann Bros. Greenhouses, Inc. (2nd location)

3714 Old Settlers Rd.
Flower Mound, TX 75022
972-539-7714
9am-5pm (Mon.- Sat.) 1pm-5pm (Sun.)
African violets, episcia, streptocarpus,
ferns, tropical plants.

JF Industries

Aubrey Freeman
HCR-65 Box 309-1
Pryor, OK 74361-9644
918-434-6768
9am-5pm
African violet leaf supports
(8 miles east, Pryor; on Hwy. 20;
1 1/2 m. east, Lake Hudson,
Road signs N-S 439.5 E-W 48)

The Violet Showroom

Shannon Ahlman
2605 Brahma
Grand Island, NE 68801
308-381-8513 308-382-2554
By appointment only.
Standards, starters

Violets of the West

Jean Miller
6661 Upham Dr.
Arvada, CO 80003
303-421-3195
By appointment.
African violets and gesneriads.

The Violet Showcase

Douglas & Barbara Crispin
3147 So. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
303-761-1770
10am - 5pm daily. Closed
Tuesdays and Sundays.

Kachina African Violet & Supplies

Mark R. Lort
15818 North 52nd St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
602-992-1251
By appointment only.
Supplies
Email at kachinaav@juno.com

Hattie Baggett's African Violets

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
11320 West Park Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714
520-822-5060
Call for appointment.
Large flowering standard African violets.

Desert Violets

Susan Merski
2511 N. Desert
Tucson, AZ 85712
520-326-3057
By appointment only.
African violets, streps.

Maril Products, Inc.

Anne & Tom Whitehair
320 West 6th St.
Tustin, CA 92780
1-800-546-7711
7:30am - 4:30pm (Mon.-Thurs.)
7:30am - 12pm (Fri.)
Manufactures and sells Phyan 20 greenhouse
disinfectant - a great product for use with
African violets.

Violet Perfection By Gini

Gini McCanne
1420 Oxford Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711
909-624-8331
By appointment only.
African violets, pots & supplies.

Phlogistics

Florence Naylor
478 Arcade Dr.
Ventura, CA 93003
805-653-5546
By appointment.
pH paper, Nifty Scoops, Oxyfresh, Water
Treatment Equipment.

Dyna-Gro Nutrition Solutions

David E. Neal
1065 Broadway
San Pablo, CA 94806
510-233-0254 800-396-2476
9am - 4pm (Mon.- Fri.)
Manufacture plant food.

Mighty Minis

Jean Stoke
7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828-3905
916-421-7284
10am-5pm
Mini violets, gesneriads.

Kerry's Violets

Karyle A. Pasley
1140 7th Ave.
Gold Hill, OR 97525
541-855-7065
By appointment only.
African violets.

Travis' Violets

Travis Davis
2064 Ellen St.
Ochlocknee, GA 31773
912-574-5167 Day
912-574-5236 Night
10am-6pm
7 days a week, with appointment.

Showcase

Ness' China Blue

New Introduction - 1998

Hybridized by: D. Ness

Small Standard



Rhapsodie Clementine

Exhibited by: Jean McIlvanie

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Standard





Rebel's Barbara

New Introduction - 1998

Hybridized by: R. Bann

Standard



Ness' Midnight Fantasy

Exhibited by: Cynthia Crater

Hybridized by: D. Ness

Standard

Shows and Judges



Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
(972) 279-5993

Another great convention has come and gone. Thanks to all of the exhibitors for giving us a beautiful show. Thanks, also, to the judges, clerks, consultants, and awards committee for a fine job. Their diligence allowed the Library Committee and the photographer to complete their work so the show could be opened to the membership on time. We will give you a report of the discussions that went on at the Judges Breakfast and the Shows & Judges Committee meeting in the September issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.

As you know, I will be undertaking another job in the organization. Ordinarily, when one moves up, their chairmanship is passed to another. My very loyal and able

committee members insisted that I remain as Shows & Judges Chairman. They have promised to take turns writing the column and to take on extra assignments. At their insistence, and with their support, I have agreed to try it "their way". If it doesn't work, appropriate changes will be made. I would like to introduce two new committee members that will be joining us. They are Barbara Pershing, a new AVSA Board member from Iowa and Patricia Sutton, an AVSA Board member and Judging School teacher, from Oklahoma. I would also like to say thanks to retiring members Betty Tapping from Canada, and Gary Wells from New Mexico for their work and support on this committee. We will miss you!

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Margaret Condit – Locust Grove, OK

***Eye Shadow** (8779) 1/4/99 (Condit/D. Harris) Semidouble lavender frilled/purple eye, tips. **Crown variegated** green and cream, ovate, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

Jane Donaho – Saint Paul, MN

***Cherub Cheeks** (8780) 1/4/99 (J. Donaho) Single white frilled star/variable light pink sparkle overlay. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

VARIOUS VISIBLE VARIEGATES

by Anne Tinari
Huntingdon Valley, PA

An African violet collection never seems quite complete without a few variegated leaf-type cultivars to provide interest and beauty.

Variegated foliage brings an added attraction to your collection and becomes a desirable trait. One must remember the green coloring of the leaf is due to the presence of a green pigment called chlorophyll. When parts of the leaf lack chlorophyll it causes variegation.

Variegated foliage African violets can be described as plants whose foliage has a combination of two or more of the following colors: white or light green, red, rose, wine, copper, pink, chartreuse, cream and dark green. Often the leaf reverse is light red or wine in coloring or can be a creamy white to light green.

Variegated leaf types follow several patterns. Some are marked with streaks through the entire green portion of the leaf; others are mostly green in the center. Some yield even variegation along the edges of the leaves, while many variegate both in the leaf blade and along the edges.

Another type focuses on the crown of the plant. In crown variegation, colors spread from the crown, which sports a lighter greenish pattern, to the tips of the leaves.

Variegated saintpaulias have not always been popular. Variegation, in the beginning, was an unstable trait and a novelty. Many of the first, listed in violet catalogs in 1954, were unappreciated and not registered in African violet circles because they offered no great sale value.

In 1961, various variegated patterns began to emerge. One of the most popular was 'Lillian Jarrett,' with stable, mottled foliage and a mosaic pattern of variegation. A

popular variety, 'Lillian Jarrett', appeared on the African Violet Society of America's Best Varieties List for five consecutive years and is still found in mail-order catalogs.

It has been difficult to repeat the 'Lillian Jarrett' leaf pattern in other violets. Geneticists admit this type of foliage can only be inherited maternally, a fact to remember when considering hybridizing. The year 1967 brought forth a new variegated type still popular today. 'Tommie Lou', introduced by Mrs. Oden, a sport of the plant 'White Pride,' possessed an attractive variegated leaf with an almost pure white border.

However, there are several important points to consider when growing these beauties. It is a known fact that high temperatures, too much light and over fertilization with excessive nitrogen can cause the variegated foliage to lose their variegation. Variegated plants always seem to thrive best during the cool months of the year. They can lose all variegation in extreme hot weather but variegation usually returns as temperatures cool down. A temperature of 70° F is recommended, and as with most flowering plants, variegated African violets prefer a fresh buoyant atmosphere.

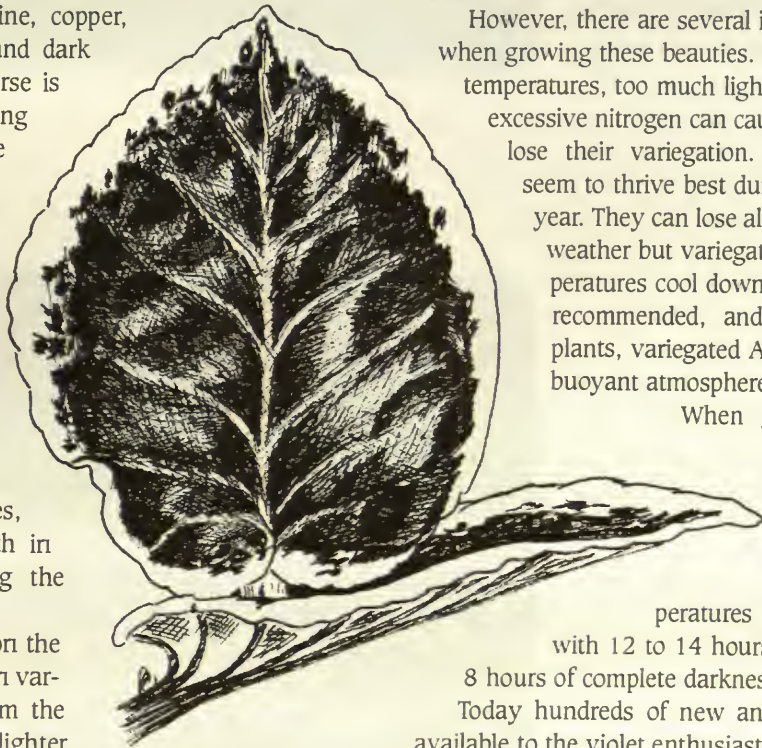
When growing these variegated violets under lights they will thrive best at the ends of the light fixture or on the lower shelf where cooler tem-

peratures exist. They perform best with 12 to 14 hours of light daily and at least

8 hours of complete darkness.

Today hundreds of new and interesting cultivars are available to the violet enthusiast. Among some of the standard types are 'Affection', 'Alamo Sunshine', 'Blackberry Jam', 'Champagne Halo', 'Happy Halo', 'Nancy Reagan', 'Romance', 'Tommie Lou', and 'Tradition'. Interesting variegation also exists amongst the miniature and trailing types.

If you are timid about adding these beauties to your collection dispel your fears! By keeping in mind the above culture tips, you shall find them as easy to grow as all the other outstanding varieties that exist in the wonderful world of African violets.



Showcase

Fredette's Moonflower

From Best AVSA

Collection of Standards

1998 National Show

Exhibited by: Carroll Gealy

Hybridized by: I. Fredette

Photo Credit: Library Crew

Large



Cloud Mist

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Miniature





Sno Cap Trail

Exhibited by: Bev Promersberger

Hybridized by: S. Weynand

Standard Trailer

Photo Credit: Library Crew



Ocean Eyes

Exhibited by: Jim Kuhn

Hybridized by: M. Burns

Large

Design Bits and Pieces

by Edna Rourke • Shelton, CT

Part 1 Accessories

What is an accessory? An accessory is described as something optional, extra and/or added to help in a secondary way.

In an African violet show, if accessories are permitted, they are used in the Design Division to add to the attractiveness or to the effect. The schedule should clearly state whether or not an accessory is permitted as well as in which class or classes it/they may be used. An accessory can only be used when specified in the show schedule.

In the design section of a show, it is something that has been added to the plant material, mechanics, container, background and/or the base. An accessory should not, however, be the focal point of the design unless it is so stated.

An accessory should serve some purpose or function. For instance, it can be used to help balance the design, express a feeling or mood and it may sometimes be used to help interpret either the theme or a class title.

The same principles of design apply when choosing an accessory. Shape, color, size, texture, and whether or not it is appropriate, are all factors you should consider. Be careful in the choice of an accessory. Remember it should be in harmony as well as in a realistic proportion with the rest of the design. PLEASE, don't depend upon an accessory alone to supply the interpretation of the theme or particular class. It should only be a small part of the overall design.

When creating a design where an accessory is to be used, a base to hold all of it together should be a consideration as it will unite the components into one.

Placement is also very important. An accessory can be placed beside an arrangement and when used in this way, it does not determine the height or shape of a design. It can also be used within the design. If your accessory is tall, it can help to create the line of the design thereby reducing the amount of plant material necessary. It can also be placed within the design, but subtly; again, keeping in mind it should not be the focal point unless so stated.

There are many things that may be used as accessories. The following is a list of some material you may want to consider using when selecting an accessory:

boxes	books	candles	collectibles
driftwood	figurines	minerals	rocks
tools	plantings	plastics	ornaments
shells	knickknacks	photographs, etc.	

The possibilities are only limited to your imagination!

Part 2

What is a Base and How is it used in a Design?

By definition a base is the thing or part of something on which an item rests, the bottom or foundation.

In a design class, anything placed under the container is a base. It can be a piece of wood, a mat, or a stand of some type, etc. However, a piece of fabric placed under the container is not considered a base. Its use is generally left up to the discretion of the exhibitor.

A base can also be used to either increase height or to add interest to a design. It is sometimes used to help stabilize balance but, a base should only be used if it will add something to the overall design. A base can be of almost any shape - oval, round, rectangular or square, etc., provided it is compatible to both the plant material and the container used.

When establishing design proportions, (such as the height, width, etc.) the base and container used are considered to be one unit. To achieve a desired effect, several flat bases may be used together or stacked. A base may also serve as a container and just as in any design, color and texture should also be compatible.

A base that has an open frame can make a design look lighter in weight. This type of base allows light to pass under and through the design adding more interest to the exhibit.

Before deciding whether or not to use a base, analyze your design. Make sure it will add to the overall design and not detract from it. At times a design may seem to be top

heavy. Using a base can give stability and bottom weight. The use of a base can also provide needed contrast and variety in form as well as help establishing continuity and some rhythm.

A base can unify the design by bringing all of the components of a design together. It's also very helpful when using an accessory. (Please note: a base is not considered an accessory but part of the design.) Remember it should hold the completed design but not overpower it.

There are several things you should look for when choosing a base. They are:

1. harmony of color
2. compatibility of material
3. in scale with materials used
4. relationship of materials
5. suitability

Many types of bases are available. They may be purchased, improvised or constructed and can be either ceramic, glass, wood, metal, slate, stone, marble, Styrofoam, cork, etc. The choice is up to you.

There are several sources for bases. Garage sales, flea markets, and tag sales, just to name a few, can be an excellent way to pick them up rather inexpensively. However, they can also be purchased wherever flower arranging materials are sold.

Finally, practice doing arrangements with different types of bases. Try experimenting until you find one that achieves the desired effect.

Part III

Backing it All Up

A background is defined as the surface that the design is seen against. Every design is seen against some kind of background and it is an important part of the design section of any show.

Uniform backgrounds for each class give an overall appearance that is more appealing and an exhibitor will

find it much easier to conform to the dimensions given.

A background may be an upright surface attached to a base of some kind and can be painted, treated or covered with fabric. Draping, another alternative, may be allowed if so stated in the schedule. In this regard, the show schedule should be very explicit as to what is and what is not allowed. The color, texture, types of materials and/or any restrictions should be clearly stated.

If using a straight upright background, covering it with fabric and bringing the fabric forward as an underlay will help to unify the overall design. Sometimes it is permissible to use a contrasting material for an underlay as an incorporated part of a design.

Remember that a design may not extend above or beyond the confines of the background. The background is the boundary in which you confine your design. An important part of any exhibit is using up the space allowed by a background.

This allowable space may be used in several ways. Make sure your design has enough height (but does not extend beyond the designated dimensions); remember that width is just as important as depth; and using up the allowable space doesn't mean that you have to fill that space full of plant material – spaces are an integral part of any design.

Background sizes are also important. Height, width, and depth should be suitable for the design depending on whether you are doing a large, medium, small or miniature design. Dimensions such as 24" x 18" x 16" and 12" x 8" x 6" are two examples that work well.

Take some time before your show to practice. Try cutting pieces of cardboard into the dimensions stated either here or in your show schedule, then taping them together. Cover the backgrounds with fabric - experimenting with different types of fabrics. A neutral, slightly textured fabric may be easier to use at first. Masking tape works well on both cardboard and fabric. It won't damage fabric and is easy to remove.

Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ Mem. # _____ Date _____

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- ☐ Individual Membership USA (\$18.00)
- ☐ Associate Member USA (\$10.00-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ☐ International Membership (\$20.50)
- ☐ International Associate (\$11.50-no magazine, must reside at same address as a person having any other class of membership)
- ☐ Commercial USA (\$30.00)
- ☐ Commercial International (\$33.75)
- ☐ Affiliated Chapter USA (\$20.00)
- ☐ Affiliated Chapter International (\$22.50)
- ☐ Affiliated State, Regional and Council (\$20.00)
- ☐ Life Member (\$275.00)
- ☐ Library (\$18.00)
- ☐ International Life (\$325.00)

- ☐ New Member
- ☐ Renewal Mem. # _____

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc. INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in **US \$** with a draft or check on a USA bank. International postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

VISA / MC accepted Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____



Experience Yosemite Valley

2nd Best Design

1998 National Show

Exhibited by: Mae Mendes



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email jabar@foothill.net

Miscellaneous Erratum

The difference between Famous and Infamous is only two letters, however, the meanings are completely different. If the spelling of your request for a plant from Vintage Violets isn't correct, do I have the right to guess? I think not. With the change of one or two letters, you might change an African violet into an entirely different species, maybe even a cactus.

Let's get real technical. There is more than one Cinderella; two listed in the Master Variety List and another by Buchanan. There are several Shockwaves also, a couple of Star Wars, etc. If your request is just Star Wars, I'm not going to guess which one. I'll do all I can to help you find a certain variety, but in turn you have to help me with the complete name and any information on the item you are looking for. For example: Not just plain Lilac Time but 'Ness' Lilac Time'. There is also a 'Granger's Lilactime'.

The matter of Sports and Mutants are another headache. Some plants have more than one aberration. Some sports and mutants are listed in the Master Variety List and then some are not. It is very difficult to find some of these plants for the obvious reason that there may be only one available. For me to find them, they must be listed somewhere with a

description or have a known place of origin.

I have already sent for all the spring catalogs and will be upgrading my list soon. Do you have any deletions? Have you lost something listed with me in the past? Let me know and maybe I have another source and will help you replace it. Please, help me keep my records as correct as possible.

Some of the plants listed in The AVSA Most Wanted column, the March-April AVM, were found before the entire list was printed. My deadline and the actual printing date are a few months apart which makes it hard to stay current. I do want to thank all of you that responded to that list. It sure makes my job easier.

Additions to the The AVSA Most Wanted this issue are: Angels Kiss, N. Johnston; Blueberry Ruffles; Coral Cove; Gypsy Trail of Trails, Lyon; Last Snow; Melodie Kristen; Mysterium; Pink Vanilla, (Not Rob's Vanilla Pink); Popsicle; Rainmaker, Blansit; Show Stopper, Whitaker; Silver Champion, Champion; and Snow Flurrie, Arndt, (There is also a Snow Flurry by another hybridizer, see spelling).

Remember, when someone is kind enough to share with you, always return the postage, asked for or not.

In Memory

Arlene Britten

Arlene Britten of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, passed away October 20, 1998. A former President of the AVS of Canada, Arlene also served the Halifax AVS in many positions from President to member of the Good Cheer Committee. A Life Member of AVSA, she was also a member of the Bay State AVS.

Valerie Miller

The President of the Portland AVS (Oregon), Valerie Miller, passed away February 26, 1999. A strong advocate of AVSA, Valerie was very active in her club and had recently made a contribution to the Regional Reviews article for the AVM.

The Little Chimera Who Could

by Shirley M. King
Virginia Beach, VA

Once upon a time a friend gave me a blossom stem from 'Suncoast Peppermint Kathy' which was potted, slipped into a plastic bag, lightly moistened and placed in the back row of my plant stand beside other leaf cuttings and blossom stems. In due course a tiny shoot appeared in one of the leaflet axils. The grower was very happy as she turned and tended the pot with tender loving care.

About eight or ten days later, lo and behold, there appeared another shoot, this time in the other axil! The grower was filled with even more joy, and tended this little pot diligently and with great hope. In the fullness of time the tiny plantlets outgrew the parent stem and the grower very carefully separated the two babies from their mother and planted each in its own tiny pot. One little plant was noticeably larger and stronger than the other and the grower put all her hope in this one, but still tended the other lovingly as it might make a nice gift for someone one day.

Now it came to pass that the larger plant waxed and grew strong, putting up sturdy leaves in nice rosette fashion. The lesser plant grew much more slowly, and even suffered the loss of a couple of leaves that were apparently damaged during the transplanting process. It sat in the back row of the plant stand (where it still received loving care) and the larger plant enjoyed a more prominent place among the other plants.

One day the grower noticed flower buds starting to sprout on the larger plant, and her joy knew no bounds. The lesser plant, never as large or showy as its sibling, continued to grow slowly, almost apologetically, but did appear to

be quite healthy despite its modest appearance. Gradually, the peduncles on the larger plant lengthened and the buds swelled. The grower checked their progress several times a day, just waiting for that lovely bright stripe to become visible. Finally, the first petal opened from the bud, then the second. The flower was full and almost ivory, but alas, there was no stripe, just a purple-red marking at the "eye" of the blossom.

Now, the grower knew enough about chimeras and basic genetics not to be too disappointed, after all, it was still a very lovely plant, with a most attractive blossom. Someone would welcome it into their home as a gift if I tired of it.

All this time the lesser plant had continued to thrive, and the grower now noticed that it too had developed a nice rosette form. Like its larger sibling, it was producing buds, so it was moved forward on the stand to receive better light, even though it obviously would not produce the desired stripe and was merely a potential gift plant.

Then one morning BEHOLD, in the silent darkness of night one petal had fully unfolded and there, right down the middle, was a prominent red stripe! More petals quickly opened, and they too bore the desired red stripe, and soon there was a wonderful, fluffy, double chimera blossom just as the grower had imagined when she planted the original flower stem!



WORTH REPEATING:

Tailoring the Trailer

by Ralph Breden • Redondo Beach, CA

Have you ever successfully repotted a mature standard trailer? My efforts in such an endeavor invariably ended up with a plant wide open in the center and stems without leaves, very much in evidence.

I knew the results of tip pruning on various other plants – the growth of side shoots – be it on roses, mums or chimera African violets. Since there was little to lose in applying an exaggerated tip pruning procedure to a trailing African violet, I thought – why not? The result was very rewarding and since my first attempt, I have successfully revived most of my tired African violet trailers.

I select a plant that has grown drops beyond the edges of the pot, or one that is not growing with good (circular) form.

STEP ONE:

Cut off the drops inside the edge of the container.



STEP TWO:

Remove all leaves from the remaining part of drops coming from the main trunk of the plant.



STEP THREE:

Clean stems of any dead material (leaf or flower)

STEP FOUR:

Loosen old soil in top of pot (approximately one inch depth)

Remove loosened soil by inverting pot and shaking lightly.

Replace soil that was removed with starter mix (half perlite, half vermiculite)

Remaining stems may or may not be in contact with starter mix.

STEP FIVE:

Plant is now ready for incubation. Place pot in plastic bag, tying bag to make it semi air tight. The soil should be moist enough to create humidity in the bag, but not so wet as to cause bare stems to decay. (I find watering the plant a couple days ahead of cutting back, works well.)

To keep plastic from coming in contact with stems, *Plastic sticks* may be inserted at inside edge of pot. Place under lights or in natural light as you would a growing plant.

STEP SIX:

Observe growth on renovated plant. When small leaves are approximately 1/8 inch in diameter, bag may be opened (three to four weeks). Gradually remove bag after plant is acclimated to the growing environment.

STEP SEVEN:

After new growth pattern is established, plant may be groomed by removing some growth or complete stem(s) to ensure uniform pattern.

STEP EIGHT:

(Optional) After new growth is three to four months old, the plant may be repotted. In repotting, some soil is loosened from root ball and removed. Not all soil is removed. Plant may be repotted in same size pot or larger size if several stems were left from cutting back.

OBSERVATIONS

Blossom development may be slower in some varieties.

Plants may be cut back more than once but developing growth (stems) are weaker with each cut back.

The ends of the drops that were cut can be potted in starter mix and grown as new plants.

Drops that are potted for potential show plants must be limited to one cutting per pot. If potted for other purposes, multiple planting may be made.

Some varieties require pinching centers to get side growth. Others have side growth in their normal growth pattern.

In growing trailers, I have concluded they require more water because of the expanded evaporative surfaces, they tolerate more fertilizer, and they require concentrated light. However, trailers are relatively easy to grow.

If you haven't the courage to enter a plant in your local show for fear of destroying symmetry (broken leaves) on the way to the show, try entering a trailer.



Committees of the African Violet Society of America

Janet T. Reimer, *AVSA Archivist*

Most of the readers of this magazine, the African Violet Magazine, are also members of the African Violet Society of America (AVSA). A subscription to the magazine is a benefit of membership. Many though, unless they attend convention or belong to a local affiliate, have little contact with the Society. The purpose of this article is to inform these members of one aspect of the Society, the various committees.

AVSA is served by two types of committees: standing committees and special committees. Standing committees are enumerated in the AVSA Bylaws and their chairmen are members of the Board of Directors. Throughout the year these chairmen report to one of the vice presidents who in turn report to the president.

Special committees are created either for a very specific purpose or for a limited time period. The chairmen, who report either to a standing committee chair, or to an officer, are not members of the Board of Directors.

All committee chairmen are appointed by the president and their terms coincide with that of the president. Each chairman has the right to select the members of his/her committee, with the guidance and approval of the president.

Standing Committees (in alphabetical order)

AVM Advertising - The chairman of this committee is the Advertising Manager. She is responsible for receiving all advertising copy and forwarding same to the editor of the African Violet Magazine in time to meet publication deadlines. Members of the committee assist, particularly in soliciting new advertisers.

Affiliate - The chairman is responsible for affiliate promotion, mailing informative material to affiliated members, and advising affiliates with problems on which they may need guidance.

Awards - This committee is responsible for all annual AVSA convention show awards and all individual Society awards. The chairman gathers suggestions for awards and the committee votes upon these suggestions. Some of the most prestigious awards are also voted upon by the Executive Committee.

Commercial Activities - The promotion of greater interest in the African violet industry for the betterment of AVSA is the primary goal of this committee. Effort is made toward creating unity among the commercial members.

Commercial Sales and Exhibits - This committee is most active during convention assisting the commercial members in both sales and in the show room. The committee also assists commercial members in promoting and improving the Society.

Convention - The planning and direction of all AVSA conventions are the responsibility of this committee which is led by the Convention Director. Invitations from hosting groups are received by the Board of Directors and voted upon, usually several years in advance. If approved, the convention director contacts possible sites and negotiates with hotel properties to obtain a location that meets the Society's convention needs. The committee members assist in working with the local hosting group to carry out a successful convention.

Finance - The preparation of a balanced budget is the primary responsibility of this committee. The budget is used for guidance during the ensuing year. Other duties include assisting the treasurer and advising on investment matters. The chairman of this committee also serves on the Executive Committee.

Library - This committee's function involves the development, maintenance, and promotion of the Society's library materials including photographic slide programs, videos, and educational packets. Distribution of the materials, upon request from members, is handled by the Society's office staff.

Master List of Species and Cultivars - The primary function of this committee is the compilation of the Master List of Species and Cultivars, formerly the Master Variety List, and its annual supplements. There have been nine editions of this publication with the recent ones available in both paper form and on computer disk.

Membership and Promotion - Expanding, developing, and promoting the Society is the purpose of this important committee. Developing ways to increase membership worldwide is its goal.

Nominating Committee - A file of potential officer and director candidates is maintained by this committee. From this file is drawn a slate of officers and/or directors for each election.

Plant Registration - AVSA is responsible for the registration of the genus *Saintpaulia*. This committee ascertains that all registrations are in compliance with the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

Publications - The publication of the African Violet Magazine and other literature authorized by the Board of Directors is the responsibility of this committee. The chairman works closely with the editor of the magazine to ensure timely publication.

Research - One of the Society's primary objectives is research. This committee reviews applications from academic institutions seeking funding for the study of various aspects of *Saintpaulia* culture. The applications are then presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Funding is provided from the Boyce Edens Research Fund which was established specifically for that purpose.

Shows and Judges - This committee is responsible for all activities related to shows, judges, teachers and judging schools. Standards of judging are developed by this committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Efforts are constantly underway to ensure that judging is as fair and consistent as possible.

Watch for AVSA Archivist, Janet Riemer's, forthcoming article on AVSA special committees.

Just Be Patient

by Rose Marie Yeates
Ft. Pierce, FL

As a retiree who has relocated to Florida from the north, a vacation up north is mandatory every summer to visit our four children and three grandchildren.

Due to the geographic distance between us, our family doesn't get very much "quality" time together anymore, so we dedicate eight weeks of our summer to visiting the family we left behind.

When you are a violet hobbyist, with a collection of 75 to 100 violets, it's hard to find a "caregiver" for them, someone who knows about violets, who will volunteer for *eight* weeks.

I came down with a severe case of the "violet blues" (and I don't mean the color of violets!) when I returned home from vacation and had a look at my violets. The "caregiver" had filled all of my capillary matting trays with about 1" of water! I just cried when I saw the plants. My mother and husband felt so sorry for me.

All those months of hard work, gone. Some plants had leaves that drooped and would fall away with a mere touch,

a clear sign of root rot. There wasn't much left to do but remove the dying roots and strip the plants down to the first healthy-looking leaves. I also very carefully scraped the neck, then repotted the plants in smaller pots with fresh soil.

Six weeks later I was ever so proud to see that things were looking up after giving the poor plants a lot of TLC.

Another friend was baby sitting the 50 - 70 little suckers that I had put up in medicine cups. I had placed them inside cookie or cake containers from a supermarket, creating a humid greenhouse environment. I had provided her with a medicine dropper, so she could be sure she hadn't overwatered them. These suckers have now grown large enough to be potted into 2 1/4" and 3" pots. I am ever so grateful to this friend, as I once again have a healthy collection of African violets. They say that "patience is a virtue", and I sure do believe that now.

If you encounter a situation where your violets seem to have met their demise, don't give up! Be patient!



A Closer Look



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64501

THE VIOLET SHOWROOM

Every year in mid-March swallows return to San Juan Capistrano, buzzards return to Hinckley, Ohio and sand cranes return to the Platte River Valley. The what return to where?

Yes, every year about 500,000 huge sand cranes stop in south central Nebraska to eat and store energy for the continuation of their migration from Texas, New Mexico and northern Mexico to Canada, Alaska and even Siberia.

The giant birds stand three to four feet tall and have a wingspan of six feet. They are joined by 10 million ducks and geese, and more than one thousand bald eagles in this spring spectacular.

We didn't go to south central Nebraska to witness this wonder of nature, but to visit Shannon and Pam Ahlman of the Violet Showroom in Grand Island.

Our first stop was at their shop, A & A Floral and Gifts, in downtown Grand Island. Here we met Pam Ahlman, who showed Beth and me around the full-service florist shop with the adjoining gift shop. Pam has a warm, outgoing manner that is effective in dealing with the public.

After a quick tour of the florist shop, Pam rode with us to her home, where Shannon and daughter Mackenzie, the youngest of three daughters, were waiting for us.

Shannon greeted us with a big, broad smile and invited us in. Quickly we moved on into the basement and the African violets. Descending to the basement, we were greeted by a veritable explosion of color. There before us were many show-quality plants literally awash in color - whites, pinks, blues, purples, and variegated blooms. Fortunately for us, the plants were in their prime as Shannon had been



Shannon and Pam Ahlman are joined in the violet room with daughter, MacKenzie.

grooming them for a big show and sale to be held just three days after our visit.

After the "oohs" and "aahs" had died down, Shannon escorted us into the next room where he starts his leaves and grows the starter plants. The fairly compact room was overflowing with more than fourteen hundred starter plants destined for flower shows and the AVSA National Convention.

The Violet Showroom is Shannon's pride and joy, and is actually a division of A & A Floral and Gifts. The violets are the means by which Shannon can "get away from it all" and relax from the pressures of a thriving business. "It's his fun time, his relaxation," said Pam.

Shannon and Pam met at Wayne State College where they both were music majors. While dating, Shannon visited Pam and her family in Grand Island. The young couple was



Shannon has grown this 'Blue Dragon' for show.

invited to the home of an older couple who had been raising beautiful violets for years.

Shannon was awestruck by the sight of the African violets. "The first ones I fell in love with were 'Happy Cricket' and 'Glittersweet,'" he said.

Just a few months later, Shannon and Pam were married. Pam remembered that, "Shannon used some of the wedding gift money to buy two shelves for his plants." And then he placed his first mail order. That order of twenty-four leaves from the Starrs in Pensacola, Florida seemed to take an eternity to arrive for the anxious young grower.

Quickly the leaves rooted and produced little plantlets. Pam said, "They grew faster than rabbits and we had to move for the violets."

The plants continued to increase in number to the point that by 1990 they both agreed, "enough is enough" and he rented a little two-room space at a small mall, and the violet business was born. After only four months there, the Ahlmans had to move to larger quarters.

Upon graduating from college in 1991, Shannon and Pam moved to Grand Island and opened their present flower shop. Originally opened as a violet shop, the other flowers and services were to be sidelines. By 1993, it had totally reversed. The violets decreased in number due to the increase in sales of the other flowers.

The flower business resulted when the Ahlmans decided they did not want to be music teachers after college. The idea of a flower shop was a natural one, with Shannon talented in floral arranging and design, and Pam being gifted with planning and bookkeeping abilities.

Being young and in love, they wanted to do something that would allow them to be together. They decided to try it, realizing that they could always do something else if this was not a success.

In just a few years, the floral and gift shop has grown due to "good luck and hard work and encouragement from our family and friends." In addition to Shannon and Pam, there are seven other employees at the floral shop. Weddings

make up the major part of their business, and their biggest holidays are Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.

Shannon grows large, heavy blooming show plants, and he shared his methods with me. His growing medium is a composite of two parts peat moss, two parts perlite and two and one half parts vermiculite, to which he adds charcoal and GroPower, a slow release fertilizer.

This is a lighter than normal mix, but Shannon wicks his larger plants and uses capillary matting on his starter plants.

Insect control is done by strict cleanliness and a preventive spraying program, using Orthene, Phyton 27, Marathon as a soil systemic, and a systemic fungicide containing Terraclor.

Shannon foliar feeds his plants with fish emulsion, which he mixes with the fungicides and applies once a week.

Although Shannon sells mainly at shows and conventions, he does publish a list which contains about 250 varieties. "I'm a better 'crop grower,' that's what I call it. These I grow for specific dates or specific events," said Shannon. "Like club orders," adds Pam. "Like the day we get back from convention, he has to pack and ship a large order to a club. You know, it's to your advantage when you know months in advance how many plants you will need." African violets are also sold in the floral shop.

The Ahlmans are hopeful that they can build a new shop and greenhouses in northwest Grand Island in two or three years. In the immediate future, Shannon is deeply involved in the AVSA convention to be held in Omaha next year. As Show Chairman, he has the responsibility of leading a committee of workers dedicated to producing a memorable show. It is sure he will harness the same luck and hard work that he credits for his floral and gift business, and we can expect an outstanding show.

As our interview came to a close, I began thinking of our trip home with some dread. Then I remembered the several hundred-mile trip facing the sand cranes. Suddenly the five-hour trip in a comfortable car on an interstate highway seemed less of a dread. And as the migrating flock will inevitably return to the Platte River basin, so will we, to visit our African violet friends, the Ahlmans.



Steel and wood benches contain many of Shannon's award-winning plants.

IMPRESSIONS OF A *New Grower*

by Susan Murphy
NS, Canada

I don't have a green thumb, plants usually turn brown in my presence, but plants that flower continuously - now that is a bonus! I became interested in African violets on a trip to visit a friend who is a member of the African Violet Society of Canada and her local society. I came home from that visit with approximately 26 leaves all named, wrapped and bagged for the flight home. As well, I had some potting soil with written instructions on what to do with them when I get home.

The next day was spent potting up these leaves and turning the spare room into a nursery for them. I only had a desk lamp under which to grow them, which worked when it was in the mood and that was not very often. But I was determined that they would grow. I then joined the African Violet club in Halifax and proceeded to learn all I could about the little darlings. My first meeting was filled with trepidation, not knowing anyone as well as being totally ignorant about the plants themselves. I was greeted with open arms at the meeting and then things went downhill for me. I didn't have a clue what they were talking about. They discussed gesneriads, *Streptocarpus*, episcias, potting, fertilizers, membership in AVSC (as I was new to the group I didn't have a clue what that meant) and the list goes on. I was totally lost and too shy to ask what they were talking about but I was determined. I faithfully checked my leaves every night hoping to see a little green shooting from the soil, but they just sat there doing nothing. I had no idea how long it would take for them to produce plantlets.

The following month I went to the meeting and again was confused and lost during the discussions. The potting method I was shown seemed simple enough, but making my own soil for them? That was confusing to a non-plant person. I finally got the courage to tell someone that I didn't have a clue about their discussions and would they be insulted if I said I didn't know a thing about the plants. The members were wonderful and from then on proceeded to change their programs to suit the newest members of the

club. I learned about the AVSC and the different types of plants. I didn't realize there were so many different kinds. I even learned what and who a hybridizer was and is. Finally the growing of the African violet plants did not seem such an unknown to me, although I must admit making my own soil does take some getting used to.

I continued trying to grow the leaves into plantlets and when they finally started sprouting I really started to get excited. Imagine, me, able to grow a plant from a tiny leaf! Never before have I been able to do this. Now came the time to split and pot the little darlings. What a mess I made. Soil and plantlets everywhere! Of course I planted all of the plantlets - even the ones that didn't have any roots. I couldn't bear the thought of throwing one of them out. So here I was with about 40 little plants and only the top of a bureau on which to place them with a light that only worked part-time. But I kept on watering and talking to them every week until they took root. Naturally some of them didn't grow so I had to throw those out - it was not an easy thing for me to do but the club members helped with lots of encouragement and advice.

The next meeting I heard all about the diseases they can get so I hurried home and checked under and over every plant. Whew...no thrips or any other unwanted problems. I then decided that the light was not good enough so I replaced it with my living room lamps. Now we sat in the dark in the living room but the plants had (I felt) plenty of light, and they did start growing more. Now I was getting real excited about growing African violets. Even though the plants had no blooms I felt they would come with time. With the club members helping in any way they could with advice and information, I felt I was finally an African violet grower.

*Reprinted with permission from "Chatter",
Journal of the AVS of Canada*

Did I Do *THAT*?

People have a responsibility to their African violets. The plants are helpless and depend entirely upon people to provide an environment in which is suitable for plants to grow. People must provide light, temperature, food (fertilizer), water, humidity, soil and fresh air all in proper balance for their African violets to grow well and produce beautiful blossoms.

Many plant problems are the result of human neglect of, or disregard for, the needs of their African violets. These problems can be eliminated or cured by informed persons providing their plants with plenty of timely, intelligent, tender, loving care. A happy plant grows and blossoms well! Here are lists of some of problems that we can see on our plants, and some of the possible causes:

BROWN TIPS OR LEAF EDGES

Low humidity. Mist daily.

Soil too wet or too dry. Correct inconsistent conditions.

Poor air circulation. Try to get fresh air into plant area at least once a day.

Salt injury from excessive fertilizer, especially if high in nitrogen. Trim out affected leaves, flush out salts with lots of warm water, withhold fertilizer for one month. Use dolomite lime twice a month.

BROWN SPOTS ON LEAVES

Sunburn - too much direct sunlight. Filter direct sun with shade or curtain.

PALE FOLIAGE AND LEGGY PLANT GROWTH

Insufficient light. Move plant into stronger light; water with fertilizer.

NEW FOLIAGE YELLOWING, EXCEPT FOR LEAF VEINS

Insufficient iron in soil. Give plant a "booster" shot of iron (chelate) additive.

OLD LEAVES YELLOWING

Nitrogen starvation. Water with fertilizer containing more nitrogen.

pH too high or too low. Repot in fresh soil.

LEAF DROP OR BLOSSOM DROP

Overwatering. Cut back on waterings.

Cold drafts. Move plant out of draft.

Cold water. Use tepid water.

Gas sensitivity. Move plant as far from gas source as possible and check for gas leaks.

DRY, SHRIVELED LEAVES

Heat too high. Move to a cooler spot or lower thermostat.

Humidity too low. Use pebble tray with water. Set pot on pebbles above water line. Use cool vapor humidifier.

LITTLE OR WEAK GROWTH

Too little light. Move plant to a brighter area or supplement with a fluorescent light.

Roots pot-bound. Repot in larger pot.

Plant undernourished. Feed plant with a complete fertilizer, following directions.

Soil pH too acid (too low). Raise soil pH by adding lime or repot in soil with pH of 6.5 - 7.0.

TIGHT, BRITTLE CENTER LEAVES

Too much fertilizer. Water with solution of 1tbsp. Dolomite lime per gallon of water for 2 weeks when plant needs watering. Go easy on the fertilizer after that.

COLLAPSE OF PLANT

Root rot from overwatering. No known cure!

Excessive cold or heat. Move plant to a spot with fairly consistent temperatures of between 65° - 70°F

Root shock when repotting.

Remove some bottom leaves and mist plant several times a day with warm water.

Excessive fertilizer salts in soil. Try repotting or flushing out excessive fertilizer salts.

Dehydration. Mist and water more frequently, especially on hot days.

STEMS AND LEAVES TURN LIMP, MUSHY, GLASSY AND THEN ROT

Overwatering. Potting mixture holds too much water. Repot in light, porous soil. Don't "overwater".

WHITISH MARKS ON LEAVES

Drops of cold water left on leaves.

Keep plants out of direct sun until leaves are dry. Remove water drops from leaves after watering.

Water is too cold. Use tepid water.

LEAVES CURL AROUND POT

Too much light. Move plant away from light to an area where light is less intense. Surface plant is sitting on may reflect too much light.

Temperature too cold. Place plant where it is warmer.

NO BLOSSOMS

Insufficient light. Increase light. Supplement with fluorescent light.

Improper fertilizing. Too much nitrogen, not enough phosphorus and potash. Try "bloom booster" fertilizer formula (0-10-10).

LOSS OF LEAF VARIEGATION

Too much nitrogen. Change to a fertilizer with less nitrogen.

Hot weather, high temperature. Change to fertilizer with less nitrogen until cooler weather returns.

Reprinted with permission from "The Council News"

The New Plant

by Dorothy Kosowsky
Whittier, CA

You bought a new plant (or several, but we'll pretend it's only one) and brought it into the house. You may choose to isolate it by putting the new plant in a separate room or by keeping it enclosed using a baggie. If it is your first experience with an African violet and no other plants could be subject to an insect infestation, any place in the house will be fine. However, if you have a collection, start by gently removing the plant from its pot to examine the root system. If there is no evidence of tiny white bugs (soil mealybugs), you can pot it into your own soil mix and isolate. I will caution you that just looking is not a "guarantee" of unwanted boarders.

For those of you who are brave (this is my standard procedure) and do not feel like a scalper of violets, remove all of the soil and all but about six leaves (unless this is a large plant, in which case go back to a medium-sized center). Soak the plant in warm mild **soap** water (one tablespoon to a gallon of water) for 15 minutes, then an additional 15 minutes in Super Thrive (10 drops to a gallon of water) to rejuvenate the plant as well as furnishing rooting and growth hormones.

Plant two or three of the leaves (which have also been soaked) in starter mix - 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite - being sure to mark the name and date on the container or tag. Cut your leaves at a slant, starting on the front and cutting toward the back of the leaf. Allow an inch or less for a miniature or semiminature and about an inch and a quarter for a standard. Putting down leaves is the most important thing I've suggested, as far as I'm concerned. A plant started in your environment will adapt to your conditions and often will grow almost as fast as the starter plant. And more important, you have a backup in case something happens to the original plant.

The treated plant can go into a 3 oz. solo cup if it's a medium starter plant. If it is tiny, a two-inch pot might be better as there is less volume than a solo cup - reducing the chance of rot due to excessive moisture. If you bought a fair-sized plant, you will need a three-inch or larger pot.

Fill the marked pot with about a third perlite, first inserting your wick if this is your watering method. Next add your soil. Form a cone an inch or so wide into which you will

place your plant. Fill in with additional soil as you hold the plant in place, being sure it is centered.

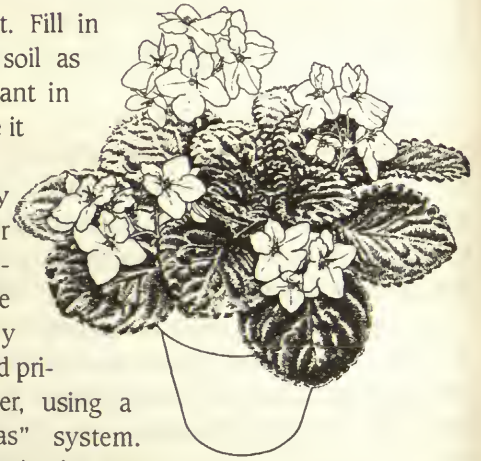
I wick my plants for better water distribution since I use an extremely light soil mix and primarily top water, using a modified "Texas" system.

Each plant sits in its own saucer on a mat in a 48" tray. The tray is filled fairly often with a gallon of water and is kept at *least*, damp at all times. This is an important point - you must offer humidity to the plants, especially when they are getting started in a new location.

Your plant or plantlet (you potted off a bunch of babies) has been growing for about a month and a half, and it is time to do some severe pruning. Of course you have been turning and seeing that the plants are growing symmetrically! Remove every leaf that is smaller than those in the row above, any leaf that has a longer peduncle (stem) than is attractive (these have a tendency to stick up and look gangly), and all those that are marred or misshapen.

When plants are transplanted some will produce odd-shaped leaves, especially the plantlets that are just off the mother leaf. As you work with your plants, be sure all the leaves in the center are growing leaf over leaf and none are under the leaves which are larger in the row below. You will need to help the new leaves from time to time and keep all of the leaves in the correct row as you go along.

Now is the time to put on rings, if you have not already done so. Many plants need the contact with the ring to eliminate the desire to cling to the pot, as well as giving you a guide to keeping good symmetry. A six-inch ring will do for a couple of months on starter plants. You can judge what you need for all others. Remember you want to protect the leaves and ensure adequate space between plants. The mini-



atures and semiminiatures also need rings at this point. Take a plastic picnic plate and use a china cup saucer as a pattern. Cut around the edge with an Exacto knife. Cut another hole so it will fit the pot you are using almost at the rim, then cut small openings for air holes all the way around remembering that leaves on minis can be very small and can get caught as they grow if the holes are too large. These can be made for the solo cups, if you find putting the rings on too difficult. With four pronged rings it's quite simple. With two

rubber bands you can loop the rubber band through the middle space of the ring between the prongs and attach on the two lower prongs and then reverse the procedure and you have a good fitting ring, as well as leaf support, from the rubber bands that cross the pot in the middle.

*Reprinted with permission from the
California Council News, joint publication of
Northern and Southern CA AV Councils*

African Violet Necks

by Winston S. Marchant • South Africa

As the older leaves of an African violet begin to drop off, they leave a bare stem. This is known as a neck. There are two major problems with a necky plant.

- As the neck grows longer the plant tends to lean over, and gradually grows over the side of the pot which is not very attractive.
- An African violet with a long neck is more susceptible to disease.

Fortunately there are a number of methods to resolve this problem without having to dispose of your African violet.

METHOD 1

When the neck is only 30 to 40 mm long, repotting your African violet is the best way of getting rid of the neck. This can easily be done.

- Remove the plant and root ball from the pot. When carrying out this procedure allow the root ball to be a little on the dry side.
- With a sharp kitchen knife cut about a third off the root ball.
- Using fresh potting mixture, repot the African violet, covering the neck with soil to the top of the pot.



Figure 1 - Cutting Rootball

METHOD 2

When an African violet has an extra long neck:

- Cut the stem off approximately 50mm below the lowest leaves.
- Remove any old, or damaged, leaves from below the crown.
- Scrape the stalk lightly, exposing fresh, clean cells.
- At this point, repot the plant. Using fresh potting soil, plant the stalk into the pot, pressing the soil firmly against the stalk. Keep the soil moist at all times to encourage root growth.

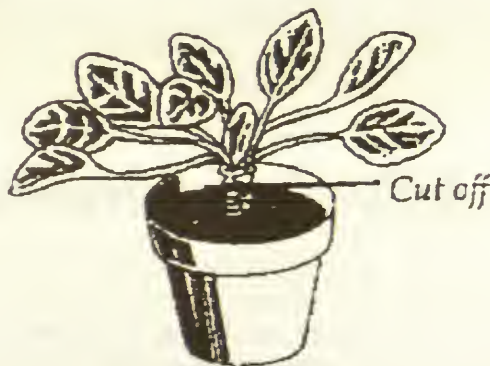


Figure 2 - Cut Stem with Sharp Knife

*Reprinted with permission from the Usambara Violet
Association publication, South Africa*

PROPAGATION:

A shortcut to sturdy African violet starters

by Sharon Holtzman • Cincinnati, Ohio

When I first began propagating my African violets, each leaf was always put down in its own solo cup or 2" pot. When these leaves weren't individually covered they were put into a community tray and covered by a plastic dome. Very often (in my conditions) there was a long wait for the babies to come. When I broke my clumps down and placed the tiny starters into single solo cups they were always put back under cover for a short period of time to prevent transplant shock. If these babies were spindly to begin with, I often lost them due to rotting. Little by little I began to change my way of doing things and I find that I now not only get babies faster, but they are much stronger from the beginning.

I had read or heard somewhere that when leaves are rooting they give off some kind of hormone so that if you have more than one leaf rooting in the same pot it actually speeds the process. I have found this to be absolutely true, even when putting down the tiniest baby leaves. I have also found that it is not necessary to have leaves under cover when rooting them. I will admit that there are some finicky variegates that need covering, but for the most part I don't cover anything anymore. By not having the babies under cover when they break through the growing medium they immediately adjust themselves to the growing conditions and start out just as stocky and sturdy as they can be.

Here is how I do it:

- Using a 5" pan pot, I fill it with my growing medium to a depth of about 1-1/2". As I draw my wick up through this growing medium I have it long enough to form a

complete circle in the middle. On top of the growing medium I throw a handful of large chunk vermiculite.

- My leaves are cut with a razor blade on an angle with a length of not much more than 1" and are inserted into the vermiculite so that the end of the petioles are pointing close to the circle of wicking in the pot.
- The pot is then top watered with "warm" regular fertilizer solution till it runs out the bottom. The pot is placed on several folds of paper towel while I lightly pressed the surface down with my hand to be sure that growing medium, petioles and wicking are making good contact. The pot is then set on a reservoir with fertilizer solution and put at the end of my light tubes. These never get prime light.
- As soon as the babies begin to show, I cut the mother leaf in half. As they get larger I may even have to cut more of the bottom of the mother leaf away to make room for the babies. These babies are then given stronger light until they are large enough to be removed. If you find that you don't want to break down the entire clump of several leaves, you can easily take one clump out at a time, filling in the hole with new growing medium and leaving the rest until you need them.

I have been very pleased with propagating in this way... babies come up faster, they come up sturdier, and I don't have all of those tiny pots to wash over and over and over again!!

Reprinted with permission from the Violet Connection, publication of the Ohio State AVS

NEW SHOW ENTRIES PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE!

After successful testing by a number of AVSA Affiliates, the new **Entries Program**, developed for AVSA by Joe Bruns, is now available through the AVSA office for \$25. This program has been upgraded to generate the AVSA and Dixie AVS collection sheets.

Any order of the Entries Program will include the latest version of Joe's popular First Class, for which you will be

able to order upgrades periodically.

When ordering entry cards, be sure to specify that you are ordering those that work with this new system. (A limited number of the older style cards are still available, for those opting to use manual entry).

We encourage all of our clubs to purchase this program to simplify the entries process at their local shows.

Coming Events



April 30 & May 1 - ALABAMA

Early Bird Violet Club Show/Sale
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham, AL
Apr 30 - 2pm - 4pm
May 1 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Sandra Campbell (205) 755 - 0530 (day)
(205) 646 - 3542 (evening)

April 30 - May 2 - VIRGINIA

Tidewater AVS Show/Sale
Coliseum Mall
Hampton, VA
Mall Hours
Info: Celesta Cirkd - 479 - 3681

April 30 - May 2 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall
Route 31
Clay, NY
Apr 30 - noon - 9pm
May 1 - 2pm - 9pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Peter or Martha Thompson (315) 446 - 0355
email: pmthomp@dreamscape.com

May 1 & 2 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale
Nature Center for Environmental Activities
10 Woodside Ln
Westport, CT
May 1 - 1:30 - 5pm
May 2 - noon - 4pm
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570

May 1 & 2 - WISCONSIN

Crosstown & Sundowners AVS Show/Sale
East Towne Mall
Madison, WI
May 1 - 10am - 9pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Nancy Braun (608) 271 - 7796

May 1 & 2 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh AVS 19th Annual Show
Park Plaza Mall
Downtown Oshkosh-On-The-Water
Oshkosh, WI
May 1 - 10am - 5pm
May 2 - noon - 4:30pm
Info: Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Annual Show/Sale
Buenaventura Mall
Mills Rd & Main St
Ventura, CA
May 1 - 10am - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Lisa Martinez (805) 983 - 3522

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

Carlsbad AVS Show/Sale
Plaza Camino Real Mall
Carlsbad, CA
May 1 - 1pm - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Betty Roberson (760) 434 - 8116

May 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St Louis AV Council Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Gardens
4344 Shaw St
St Louis, MO
Both days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Carolyn Burr (314) 225 - 2559

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

San Joaquin AVS Judged Show/Sale
Sherwood Mall
5308 Pacific Ave
Stockton, CA
May 1 - 10am - 6:30pm
May 2 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Doris Weaver (209) 465 - 2214

May 1 & 2 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Spring Show
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA
May 1 - 2pm - 6pm
May 2 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Mary McFarland (225) 923 - 3337

May 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of South Bay Annual Show/Sale
Westgate Shopping Center, San Jose, CA
May 1 - 2pm - 9pm
May 2 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Brooks (408) 997 - 2899
Anne Jantzen (408) 374 - 1124

May 7 & 8 - MARYLAND

Baltimore AVC Show/Sale
North Plaza Mall, Parkville, MD
May 7 - 1pm - 9pm
May 8 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Janet Hagg (410) 377 - 8753

May 7 & 8 - OHIO

Parmatown AVC Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7899 Ridgewood Dr.,
Parma, Ohio
May 7 - noon - 9pm
May 8 - 9am - 9pm
Sale: Both Days 9am - 9pm
Info: Linda Berry 884 - 7241

May 7 & 8 - WASHINGTON

Longview AVC Show/Sale
Triangle Mall
Longview, WA
Mall Hours
Info: Virginia Bailey (360) 577 - 5827

May 7 & 8 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS 23rd Annual Show/Sale
Market Mall Shopping Centre
3625 Shaganappi Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
May 7 - 10am - 9pm
May 8 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300
email: goretsky@cadvision.com

May 7 & 8 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVC Show/Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church Parish Hall
3747 34th St. S.
St. Petersburg, FL (across from K-Mart)
May 7 - 9am - 4pm
May 8 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson (727) 866 - 3468
Sue MacFarland (727) 866 - 8850

May 8 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall
Guernville Rd
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

May 8 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVS Educational Display/Plant Sale
Virginia Center Commons Mall
Hours: 10am - 9:30pm
Info: Sharon Long (804) 740 - 5322

May 8 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale
Burlington Center Mall
Rt 541
Burlington, NJ
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Laurel Brown (609) 877 - 8696
email: sskalski@snip.net

May 8 - OREGON

Portland AVS Sale/Display
Tabor Heights Methodist Church
6161 SE Stark St
(enter on north side of bldg)
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

May 8 - ARKANSAS

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale
Jacksonville Community Center
5 Municipal Dr
Jacksonville, AR
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Danny Tidwell (501) 726 - 4803

May 8 & 9 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Mother's Day Show/Sale
The Plaza at West Covina
Lower Level, Macy's Court
1200 West Covina Pkwy
West Covina, CA
May 8 - 10am - 8pm
May 9 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Chris Hedberg (626) 797 - 7525

May 15 & 16 - ILLINOIS

GlenView/North Shore AVS Judged
Show/Sale/Exhibit
Chicago Botanic Garden
Lake Cook Rd and Eden Expwy
Parking \$6 for non-garden members
Info: Barbara Goodsell (847) 729 - 1690

May 15 & 16 - LOUISIANA

Verbeau AVC Display/Sale
Landmark Hotel, Hwy. 171 S., Leesville, LA
May 15 - noon - 6pm
May 16 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Eileen Stannard (318) 238 - 1584

May 23 - NEW YORK

Long Island Chapter AGGS
Judged Flower Show/Plant Sale
Clark Botanical Gardens
Albertson, L.I., N.Y.
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: (516) 581 - 8116

May 29 & 29 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Judges School
Memphis Botanic Gardens
Goldsmiths Civic Garden Center,
750 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN
May 28 - 10am - 2pm
May 29 - 10am - 1pm
Audit - \$8, Test - \$10
Info: Peggy Adamson - (615) 228 - 7762

May 28 - 30 - CANADA

AVS of Canada National Convention/Show
Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave East @ Leslie St
Toronto, ON, Canada
Info: Beverly Williams (905) 275 - 5408

May 29 & 30 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of San Francisco Show/Sale
San Francisco County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA
May 29 - 10am - 5pm
May 30 - 10am - 4pm
Info: 753 - 7090
753 - 9237

May 29 & 30 - CALIFORNIA

Orange County AVS Judged Show/Sale
Westminster Mall, 2nd Level,
J.C. Penney Wing
Golden West & Bolsa
Westminster, CA
May 29 - 10am - 8pm
May 30 - 11am - 7pm
Info: Honey Geck (714) 968 - 7954

June 19 & 20 - INDIANA

Hoosier AVS African Violet Show
Crown Point Civic Center
101 East Street, Crown Point, IN
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Jean Willey (219) 663 - 5451

VIOLETS FOR VIOLET GROWERS

by Dr. Ralph Robinson, Rob's Mini-O-lets
originally appearing in Crosswords, Spring 1995

Unlike most other members of the Gesneriad family, African violets (*Saintpaulia*) have been extensively hybridized for more than a half-century now. As a result, most of the major gains, as in the introduction of new flower colors, have been made. Though the species *Saintpaulia* came in only shades of blue and purple, most of the color spectrum is now available. What colors aren't available, likely soon will be, particularly with the recent introduction of the yellow-blossomed hybrids. Certainly much of the current work will focus on even more colors and color combinations.

In addition, except for unforeseen mutations, basic growth patterns and coloring of foliage has also become predictable and easy to achieve. The point is that most of the big gains in hybridizing *Saintpaulia* have already been made. What contribution can the individual hybridizer make? Though major breakthroughs are unlikely, attention to the "small details" can still yield meaningful results. The purpose of this article is to identify a few of these achievable, yet often overlooked, goals.

We are not seeking hybrids that are distinctly different, but are better performing. These are plants that will bloom and grow better, even with less than ideal cultural conditions and care. After all, a plant that is beautiful under only ideal conditions isn't really superior, and shouldn't be acceptable to the good hybridizer.

FOLIAGE CHARACTERISTICS

What we want is good symmetry and growth habit. Symmetry is the shape of the plant. For single-crowned varieties, leaves should "radiate like spokes on a wheel", and create a circular form. The AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges defines good symmetry as: "even distribution of foliage, grown straight out from plant center to outer edge, with each row of leaves overlapping the row below without gaps or spaces". In my opinion, hybridizers should not only look to produce varieties with good symmetry, but those which grow symmetrically with the least amount of effort and care on the part of the grower. The latter point will be the focus here. How can this be achieved?

Leaf size and shape

I personally prefer a violet whose leaf blades are large relative to petiole length. For any given size plant, varieties with these characteristics will develop good symmetry with fewer rows (number) of leaves, and at an earlier age. This is true even for miniature varieties. Very simply, the area within a given circle is more easily filled with larger leaves. In addition, gaps between rows are less likely, since leaves will more easily overlap or "shingle". This is a trait to be looked for in selecting parents for a cross. I've found that parents with relatively long petioles and small leaf blades produce offspring that more than likely have this same trait – i.e. it seems to be dominant. At least this seems to be the case when crossing a standard (large) size variety onto miniatures and semiminiaures, which is much of what I do. Good "shingling" of foliage seems less common on miniatures, so I place added importance on the other parent exhibiting this trait.

Relative shortness of petioles means the plant will develop good symmetry at an earlier age. Viewed from above, it should not be possible to "see the soil through the leaves", even on an immature plant. I call this good "tightness", in that the rows of the leaves develop closely together. This said, it is a trait that may not be desirable when looking for "girl" or ruffled foliage. These types of leaves, because they aren't flat by nature, need more room to shingle without crowding each other and producing a plant with cabbage-like appearance. Both ruffled and girl-type foliage are dominant traits, so this needs to be accounted for when selecting parents. In these crosses, choosing parents with relatively short petioles is of less importance.

Petiole stiffness

A second trait producing good symmetry is stiffness of the petioles. Leaves with stiff petioles are more likely to "grow straight out from plant center to outer edge". Plants with this trait are also likely to grow symmetrically under less than ideal lighting – i.e. natural light. Thin, weak petioles seem most likely to exist on miniature violets. The Optimara varieties, with which the general public is most familiar, seem to be some of the worst offenders. In my experience, this trait

seems most likely to be passed along in seedlings, if very evident in either parent. I've never known this trait to be completely absent in crosses with such a parent, so I try to avoid it if possible.

Foliage color

Mostly, this is a matter of preference, choosing a shade that complements bloom colors and variegation, if any, best. That said, darker foliage does offer a number of benefits. First, it usually provides a better contrast with most bloom colors, as well as with any variegation. Further, if pink or tan variegation is being sought, red-backing to the leaf blade is necessary. This will be found only on medium to dark foliage.

Another consideration is the better tolerance of adverse growing conditions of darker foliage. Dark foliage is much less likely to show the effects of overly bright, warm, or dry conditions. Adverse reactions to overuse of fertilizers or other chemicals, or to very acid/alkaline soil or water are also less visible.

Because of these advantages, I normally seek to produce seedlings with dark, or at least medium-dark green foliage. In fact, seedlings exhibiting very light green foliage are immediately discarded, since these are only that much more sensitive to the cultural problems listed earlier. That said, there are a few light to medium green leaved varieties that I like, and grow. In selecting parents, my preference is to use those with dark foliage, or those with at least some red showing on leaf backs. My guess is that light-green foliage is dominant to dark. At least this has been my observation, given my interpretation of "light" and "dark". For this reason, I almost never make crosses where both parents have light foliage.

BLOSSOM CHARACTERISTICS

Ideally, what a grower is looking for is a plant that will begin to bloom at an early age, bloom heavily, and continue to bloom all the time. The hybridizer should be looking to produce varieties with such habits. Let's address each of these.

Age to first bloom

This is something that is important to both commercial sellers and hobbyists alike. Commercial growers demand varieties that grow, bloom, and sell quickly, since a high turnover reduces time and cost of growing. Such varieties are desired by hobbyists not only because "gratification" comes sooner, but because these varieties are often easier to grow. Most suckering occurs on very young plants, but usually diminishes or stops entirely once buds start being produced. As a result, grooming becomes easier, and good symmetry is easier to maintain.

Age to first bloom is something that I achieve mostly through culling of seedlings. Seedlings with adequately developed foliage, which still haven't bloomed weeks after others from the same cross, are discarded without further thought. If

a particular parent produces a disproportionate number of such seedlings, it's simply not used in future crosses. Keep in mind, however, that some varieties are simply slower to mature, as is the case with many heavily (crown) variegated varieties. Often, these can be slow to bloom as seedlings, yet produce plants when vegetatively propagated that mature quite quickly and bloom early.

Bloom coverage and size

Most often, a "heavy" bloomer describes a variety that produces a large number of blossoms. Hybridizers, I believe, could be wrong to simply count blossoms. I prefer to look for what I call bloom "coverage". How much area is accounted for by blossoms? A plant producing ten very large blossoms can look more spectacular than one producing twice as many very small flowers. It is a trade-off the hybridizer has to deal with. Specializing in miniatures, I usually choose to look for bloom size first, since this often means using a standard-size parent, then seeking to increase blossom count in subsequent crosses. The latter can easily be done by crossing the seedling with another miniature variety, which is often necessary anyway to reduce the size (i.e. "miniaturize"). Except for the problems noted before, the miniature *Optimara* varieties are well-used for increasing blossom count.

Blossom size is very dependent upon blossom shape. It is much easier to realize larger blossoms with the "star" shape – petals of equal size and distribution. This is a recessive characteristic, the dominant shape being that found on the *Saintpaulia* species – two smaller upper, three larger lower petals. As with any recessive trait, both parents must carry, if not exhibit, this gene. Though specializing in miniature violets, I find it useful to use standard-sized varieties as parents. Smallish blossoms are typical of much of the existing stock of miniatures, so that excessive inbreeding with these only serves to exaggerate this characteristic.

Blossom longevity

Probably the most overlooked trait is blossom longevity – how long will a blossom last before fading? This is valuable to both the casual hobbyist and exhibitor, as well as the commercial grower who demands fresh blossoms to make plants saleable. Simply put, the quantity of bloom at any given time will be greater if individual blossoms stay fresh on the plant for longer periods. I follow two simple rules. First, never use parents with single blossoms, since these are almost never "stick-tite" and drop readily. I say never, since this is a dominant trait and readily shows itself in the seedlings. Stick-tite singles (genetically semidouble) blossoms can be attractive, but are better achieved by using semidouble-blossomed parents.

What I next look for is "succulence". With some practice, this is easy to see. Thicker, more succulent blossoms retain moisture and color longer than those with a thin, paper-like

appearance. A related benefit to the hobbyist is that such blossoms are generally more tolerant of adverse growing conditions. This type of bloom also "travels" better, being less prone to bruising – a consideration important to both exhibitors and commercial sellers. Succulence is something that is best achieved through selection of parents and culling of seedlings.

Another means of increasing blossom longevity is by introducing the "green" blossom gene into crosses. Blossoms showing green petal edges, tufts, or backs always will have greater longevity. An excellent example of this is 'Irish Flirt', the greenest-blossomed variety now grown. Bloom on this variety can remain fresh for months. It's been my experience that this seems to be a dominant trait visible on seedlings. It's not always easily visible on seedlings, often barely evident on petal edges or backs, only on unopened buds, or as a chartreuse or brownish coloring. However manifested, such blossoms will stay fresh for two months or more (versus the more typical two weeks), by introducing the green gene into crosses.

Regularity of bloom

Another choice the hybridizer must make is in selecting plants that are "periodic" or "constant" bloomers. One example of a periodic bloomer is 'Precious Pink'. This particular variety will bloom quite heavily, which makes it excellent for exhibition, but does so only at infrequent intervals. Most of the time it will have few, if any, blossoms. This trait seems to be easily passed on in its seedlings. Almost without exception, this has been my experience when using this variety in crosses. Seedlings from these crosses will bloom heavily, but less frequently.

Personally, I prefer a variety that produces bloom more regularly. Ideally, these will never be without at least some bloom. An added benefit is that plants regularly producing buds and bloom are less likely to produce suckers. Simply put, if it is able to reproduce sexually, it doesn't need to do so vegetatively. The increased suckering that often occurs during extended disbudding demonstrates this. Though some of my varieties often won't have the number of blossoms, blossoms will be larger (better "coverage"), will last longer, and be produced more consistently. This I feel, is more important to the hobbyist, who might be frustrated waiting for months for a plant to rebloom (otherwise, they'd just grow orchids). For the exhibitor, such a variety can still be forced into heavy bloom for showing at a particular time, given proper disbudding and culture.

Presentation of bloom

Lastly, the presentation, or display of bloom can be important. Here, there are two basic choices; a "bouquet" or a "halo". A bouquet of bloom appears as a cluster held on stiff, erect, peduncles over the center crown of the plant.

Presented as a halo, the plant center remains visible, and bloom is borne on semi-erect peduncles, evenly distributed as a ring atop the foliage. Which is best? Mostly, this is a matter of personal preference, but there are other considerations.

The first of these is the foliage type, and how it needs to be seen. This is particularly important for plants with variegated foliage. Those with crown (or "Champion") variegation are often better presented with a halo of bloom. Except when grown in very cool temperatures, this variegation is often evident only in the center rows of leaves, which would be difficult to see under a bouquet of bloom. On the other hand, "Tommie-Lou" and "mosaic" types of variegation, which are more visible on outer leaf rows, might be better presented with a bouquet of bloom.

Another consideration is the type of blossom. I think large, star-shaped blossoms are better displayed in a bouquet. These larger blossoms are better seen when held above the plant and, because they are heavier, need the stiffer, upright peduncles. It's not a hard and fast rule. The hybridizer should consider how the variety is most likely to be grown – for what purpose. Grown for exhibition, a bouquet may be preferable, since it often makes for a more spectacular display, with bloom appearing as a mass above the foliage. Unfortunately, new foliage growth is often slowed or distorted when the plant crown is covered by bloom. All of the blossoms may need to be removed from the plant to allow the foliage to redevelop properly. For the more casual hobbyist, interested in constancy of bloom and ease of care, bloom displayed as a halo may be preferable. When displayed as a halo, peduncles are less likely to disturb new foliage growth, and light more easily reaches the crown.

Conclusion

It's much easier to identify the distinctly different - what's never been seen before, at least in the same way. Much harder is defining what makes a "good" variety good. This is what I've attempted to do here, with a few opinions (and they are just that – opinions), on the direction hybridizers should consider exploring. Achieving the spectacular is just the icing on the cake; the accomplishment is in the baking. The truly good varieties are those grown by sellers, exhibitors, and casual hobbyists alike – and the gift that your mother still grows, and the exhibitor still shows, years later.

A & W VIOLETS OUR SECOND YEAR

Best organized New varieties
Lots more starter plants!

Catalog \$2
8704 E. 92nd Pl. K.C. MO. 64138
(816) 765-5589

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.
Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.
Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

VIOLET VENTURE

Fay Wagman • 52 Harper Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534
Leaves only - List \$1.00

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow. Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring TX 77388

You know African Violets -
now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, round robins, annual
convention, plus a copy of
"How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$20.00

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00

Please send check, money order, or
credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat

M. J. & D. B. Tyler

P. O. Box 1598

Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194 USA

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:

*Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022*



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world of orchids each month when you become a member of the American Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* to pages filled with priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants, supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and whatever else is needed to become a successful grower. Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA
 and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
 349 Hyman Drive
 Dollard des Ormeaux, P.Q. H9B 1L5
 Canada

*A new independent
 AV and Gesneriad publication!*

*African-violet and
 Gesneriad* **NEWS**

IN CANADA \$15/yr (4 issues) (All other countries \$15. US)
 Send for a sample copy - only \$2.

Payment must be made out to **John Beaulieu Productions**
 37 Shaw Crescent, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Z3 (705) 726-7363

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

prairieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!

I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
 (Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
 8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
 \$1.50 p&h + **12.95**

Calif. add 6% sales tax

overseas postage: \$7.50
 air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
 1404 N. Tustin J-4
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

**SAVE \$2.05
 PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢
 each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.



*The Association for plant
 & flower people who grow
 in hobby greenhouses and
 windows!*

Quarterly Magazine

Growing & Maintenance

Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)

(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50



Evergreen Violets

LEAVES ONLY

LIST \$1.00 PLUS 2 - \$.33 STAMPS

MAIL ORDER ONLY

2304 169TH AVE N.E.
 HAM LAKE, MN 55304

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey

Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
 1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806



OUR 27TH YEAR

CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook
Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798
Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540
SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids,	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included)	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

	1	6	12	25	50
Mini (6") Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
9" Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
13" Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta
SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER
White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and
Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price
7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt. \$4.29
3-12-6	Bloom	1 pt. \$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$10.00
Dolomite Limestone		
Charcoal		
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	2 lbs./\$1.75
		40 oz. \$3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts. \$1.75
Perlite	Coarse	16 qts. \$5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		\$1.75 \$5.00
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide		
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths		

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25
32 oz. - \$10.50
1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79
1 oz. - \$4.19
2 oz. - \$5.25
4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid
Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols
Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.
Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.
Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net
Phone: 334-899-7142

check us out on the web
www.graceba.net/~royh



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pot
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

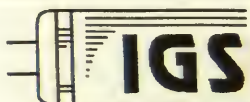
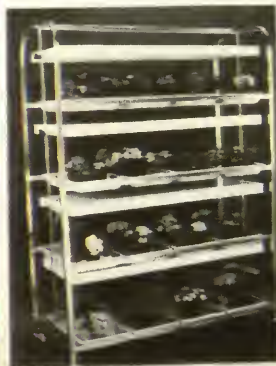
P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES

2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN
GARDENING
SUPPLIES

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

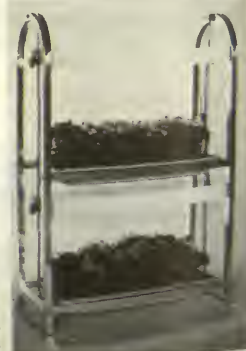
- ♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
- ♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

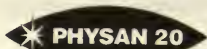
G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D



PHYSAN 20™ Controls AfricanViolet Pathogens.

- Controls Algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls disease spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20.**



MARIL PRODUCTS, INC.
320 West 6th Street
Tustin, CA. 92780
P. 714.544.7711
800.546.7711
F. 714.544.4830

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY FREDERICKS, INC.

Alyce Droege Charlene Lentz

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!

STANDARDS in 3" & 4" pots, plus leaves

MINIS CHIRITAS
TRAILERS CHIMERAS
EPISCAS STREPTOCARPUS
and other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"
fertilizers - spray - "my own mix" soil
Dandy pots - 2 sizes - many colors
growing pots - Oyamas - hanging baskets
beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)
6 sizes - decorator colors

Home of Aly's hybrids

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

P. O. Box 1416

Franklin, NC 28744

Monday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

1-828-349-4832

www.african-violets.com

Florida Registration number: 47219602

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states

Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



Teas Catalog FREE to AVSA

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com



500 Varieties - NO LIST - Shipping "Our Bill & Kathryn Paauew Choice" leaves only (with suggestions).

45 Third Street
Specify Std or Mini/Semi. \$1.00 per variety, W. Sayville, NY 11796
plus \$7.00 per order for Priority Mail. (516) 589-2724

Inquiries invited. violetsbyappointment@junjo.com



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants

Catalog - \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist

(520) 326-3057

email: desertviolets@therver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.

Tucson, AZ 85712

by appointment only



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

**We ship during winter
Safe delivery guaranteed**

We sell standards too!

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....plus dozens of other favorites

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful! Large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cute!; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow!; sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....plus dozens of other favorites

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.



SPRINGTIME

THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME TO SELECT THE PLANTS YOU WANT TO ENTER IN NEXT YEARS SHOW

Listed below are some of the plants that we carry in our catalog.
Select from these plants or send \$1.00 and we will send you our descriptive catalog.

ROB - Bamboozle, Fuzzy Navel, Outer Orbit, Rinky Dink, Ice Ripples.
PITTMAN - Dancing Eyes, Danelle, Petite Pet, Foster Trail, Sandy Trail, Cloud Mist.
NESS - Puppy Prints, Blueberry Kiss, Raspberry Ridge, Orange Pekoe.
SORANO - Fireworks, Irish Touch, Little Snow Bunny, Smitten Kitten, Kissing Bandit.
STORK - Floozie, Saddle Shoes, Windmill. **BROWNLIE** - Yvon Decelles, Theresa.
HANCOCK - Colossal, Blushing, Batik, Cherry Freckles, Cinema Star, Ballerina.
WILLIAMS - Suncoast Pirouette, Royal Fizz, Pretty Lady, Fantasy Love.

TRAILERS

My Smokey Trail, Summer Wind Tr., Discovery Tr., Rocket Tr., Skyward Tr., Reddi Tr., Cajun Tr, Cirelda, Cherokee Tr., Beacon Tr., Tinywood Tr., Bellwood Tr., Little Chipperry Tr. These and more trailing varieties in our catalog.
Plants - \$3.75 each with a minimum of 6 per order. Shipping is \$7.00 for the first 6 plants, over that add 40 cents per plant.

YOU MAY WANT TO ORDER OUR LEAF SPECIAL SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 - \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00. Current releases - 24 for \$24.00. Shipping on leaves \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH BOTH PLANT AND LEAF ORDERS YOU WILL
RECEIVE A PHONE CALL GIVING YOU THE EXACT DATE OF SHIPMENT.**

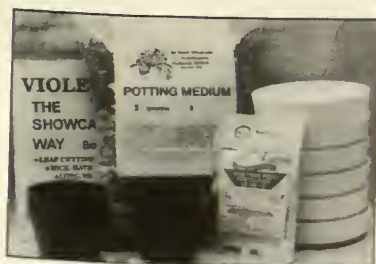
Make checks payable to **Shirley Sanders**
1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX 78221
Telephone number 210-923-1093



VIOLET SHOWCASE SPECIAL OFFER



Violet Showcase Plant Assortment - Six different standard sized starter plants will be chosen for you from our available stock when your order arrives. We will choose an assortment of leaf and blossom types and bloom color in each shipment. All plants will be husky, well-rooted, named, labeled varieties in 2 1/4" pots. A \$29.00 value - our choice of varieties - **only \$16.00** which includes packing and Priority Mail shipping, and a free catalog/list, or \$28 per dozen plants. *Tell us if you would like any minis or trailers in your assortment. We ship plants May thru October.*



Violet Showcase Basic Supplies Kit - All of the supplies necessary to try wick watering (a great way to grow violets!) PLUS step-by-step instructions. Includes a 1 oz. pouch of Volkmann Bros Constant Feed Fertilizer (15-30-15), a 3 quart bag of Potting Medium (especially mixed for wicking), 6 Volkmann Bros. wicking saucers, six 3" tub pots, six 3 1/2" tub pots, 6 yds. of wicking cord, and our best-selling **VIOLETS THE SHOWCASE WAY** booklet. A \$26.00 value for **only \$16.00** which includes UPS shipping and handling, and a free catalog/list. We ship supplies year round.



Send for your free complete catalog/descriptive plant list of supplies and violets.



Telephone (303) 761-1770 • FAX (303) 762-1808

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

The Violet Showcase

3147 South Broadway - Dept AV - Englewood, Colorado 80110

Open Monday - Saturday 10 to 5 (Mountain Time) closed Sunday & Tuesday

Established 1969



1-800-770-AVSA

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew

Phyton[®]
27

BACTERICIDE & FUNGICIDE

Effective • Invisible • Systemic



For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687



Many New, Exciting Varieties Available For 1999

New "Buckeyes", "Rebels", "Apaches", "Rodeos", Croteaus, Ness', Storks, E. Wasche Hybrids, and Australians.
List \$1.50 (refundable) in cash, stamps or check payable to

Pat Hancock

Shipping Leaves only or visit us for PLANTS.

P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

AFRICAN VIOLET BEAUTIES From The Beautiful Ozarks!

For added varieties, check the web - <http://www.hectorwong.com/sonja>
Walk-ins welcome. List \$1.00. U.S. Ship only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS
(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Rd.
Omaha, Arkansas 72662



**Acree
Creations**

Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes

YVONNE ACREE
3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045



HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

Specializing in Large Flowering Standards, Lots of Oldies
Plus New Varieties, Shipping Fresh Cut Leaves Only,
State Inspected and Certified - Shipping United States Only

1999 List \$1.50 - Payable to
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1999
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714



Travis Violets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1999 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$38 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets

AD EXPIRES 09/30/99

Phone 1-912-574-5167
1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605
e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

Size	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz/\$1.75	6 oz/\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz/\$3.00	12 oz/\$4.50
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz/\$3.75	2 oz/\$4.75
		4 oz/\$7.75

PETERS FERTILIZER

AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER		
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

**VACATION DAYS UNVEIL OUR FANTASIES,
TRAVEL TO UNKNOWN PLACES INSTILLS A DREAM,
TO FIND THE PERFECT VIOLET YET UNSEEN.
TIRED AND WEARY AT HOME WE THEN RETURN,
TO GREENHOUSE BENCHES REVEALING DIAMONDS OF OUR OWN.**

IDEAL SHIPPING MONTHS TO TRY TINARI'S WIDE SELECTION OF POPULAR CULTIVARS.

INTRODUCING AN EXQUISITE BEAUTY ... BLUE CHARM ... \$3.95 each

A real charmer, airy semidouble celestial blue slightly fluted blossom with serrated edge, medium green heart-shaped foliage, red reverse.

SPARKLING FAVORITE CULTIVARS ... \$3.95 each

Bianca, Designer Dress, Edge of Dawn, Fantasy Freckles, Fantasy Lace, Halo's Aglitter, Hot Spot, Luminescence, Sapphire Kisses, Spectacular, Sunrise Coral.

BARGAIN BEAUTIES ... \$2.95 each

Arapahoe, Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Candy Cane, Cherries 'N Cream, Chorale, Cristabel, Fantasy Forty, Hot Pants, Louise, Mia, Mighty Fine, Pink Cameo, Pink Phantom, Rapid Transit, Razmataz, Red Robe, Renata, Ruffled Skies, Tomahawk, Toreador, White Cameo.

COLORFUL AND APPEALING ... \$2.49 each

Azure Blue, Bangle Blue, Billy Penn, Centennial Purple, Coral Glow, Firebird, Grand Duchess, Ingrid, Lavender Sunrise, Morning Thunder, Pink Hill, Rose Lisere, Snowkist Haven, White Disco, Wonderland.

INTRIGUING VARIEGATED VARIETIES

Blackberry Jam, Pow Wow ... **\$3.95 each**

Affection, Champagne Halo, Happy Halo, Nancy Reagan, Romance, Tommie Lou, Tradition ... **\$2.95 each**

MARVELOUS MINIS

Little Julie, Little Pro, Snuggles Innocence, Taffy ... **\$2.49 each**

Little White Beauty, Mini Favorite, Party Lace, Pretty Baby ... **\$2.95 each**

TERRIFIC TRAILERS... \$2.49 each

Crafty Farmer, Royal Blue Trailer, Sky Trailer, Sweetheart Trailer

SEMIMINIATURE TRAILERS

Lil' Run Around, Ramblin' Fantasy ... **\$2.95 each**

Pixie Blue, Ramblin' Starlight, Rosina ... **\$2.49 each**

ORDER DIRECT FROM THIS AD BY FAX, PHONE OR MAIL.

**SEND \$1.00 FOR COLOR CATALOG FOR COMPLETE LISTING
OF VIOLETS AND ACCESSORIES.**

PACKING AND POSTAL COSTS:

Zone 0-1-2 . . . \$6.95 per shipment

Zone 3-4-5 . . . \$7.95 per shipment

Zone 6-7-8-9 . . \$8.95 per shipment

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

CA and all customers west of MS we suggest UPS 2nd Day Air.

DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD ORDERS
PHONE 1-215-947-0144
FAX 1-215-947-2163



Tinari
GREENHOUSES
Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

QK 1
.A3149

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August 1999

Volume 52

Number 4



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$18, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$20.50; Commercial USA \$30; Commercial-International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$20; Council, State or Region - \$20.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 10 Scott Dr. N, Broomfield, CO 80020-1138.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17611 N. 102nd Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Charles Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Ct., Liberty, MO 64068.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000, Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Jackie Jones, 607 14th Ave, Box 34, Durant, IA 52747.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1999, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgcrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$18.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1999 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August

Volume 52

Number 4

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

CONTENTS

JUL 13 1999

FEATURES

GARDEN LIBRARY

1999 AVSA AWARDS	6
Best Articles of 1998 - Jane Rexilius	11
Entries Program Update - Joe Bruns	11
What do the NPK Numbers Mean? - John Beaulieu	19
Originality in Show Schedules - Ralph Breden	20
In Memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.	21
Wick Watering	24
Committees of AVSA - Part II - Janet Riemer	30
'Tiger', color photo	40
A Tiger in My Plant Room - Geneva I. Holmes	41
Words of Convention Wisdom - Don Geiss	42
How to...Repot African Violets - Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson	43

The Tiny But Mitey - Tami Rawlings	46
Remembering Lyndon Lyon - Robert Lyon	47
Disease and Plant Problems	48
How to Groom a Young Violet	49
What Makes This Club So Successful? Cedar Valley AVC - Barbara Pershing	52
Fungus Gnats - John Beaulieu	53
Sometimes You Have to Improvise - David Buttram	54
Planting by Moon Signs	55
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Special Message to all AVSA Affiliate Presidents - Anne Tinari	56
Reminder: Best Variety Lists Due - Floyd Lawson	56

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Bill Foster	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Office Update - Jenny Daugereau	5
1999 AVSA Awards	7
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	8
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	12
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	13
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	14
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	16
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	17
AVSA's Most Wanted List - Barbara Elkin	17
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky	18
Annual Library Message - Jackie Jones	26

Showcase (1)	28
Showcase (2)	32
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	34
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	34
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	35
Showcase (3)	36
AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look - David Buttram	38
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondon	44
In Memory	49
Registration Report - Iris Keating	50
AVSA Honor Roll of African Violet - Floyd Lawson	51

CONVENTION

The Early Bird Catches the Award - Linda Golubski ..	11
At the Lone Star Violet Round-up.	22
Attention Commercial Members - Linda Golubski ...	31
Attention AVSA Members - 31 - Linda Golubski	31

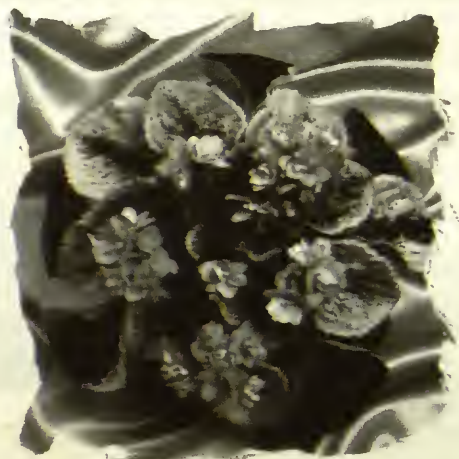
COVER

Rodeo Country
Best in Show
Best Standard
1999 National Show
Exhibited by: **Elmer Godeny**
Hybridized by: **J. C. Munk**



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A	N
Acree Creations 61	Neptune's Harvest 57
A & W Violets 61	O
African Violet and	Optimara 25
Gesneriad News 57	P
African Violets by Fredricks, Inc. . 61	Pat's Patch 59
African Violet Seed 61	Pat's Pets 58
AGGS. 63	Prairie Violets 58
American Orchid Society 63	Physan 20 58
AV Enterprises Press 64	R
AVS of Canada 57	Rob's Mini-o-lets 62
B	S
Bayou Violets 57	Shirley's House of Violets 59
Belisle's Violet House. 58	Sonja's AV's 61
Blue & Gold Embroidery 63	T
C	Tanzania Wildlife Fund 64
Cape Cod	Teas Nursery 61
Violetry Inside Back Cover	Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
Country Violets Greenhouse 64	Travis' Violets 56
Cryptanthus Society 57	V
D	VioletsFun Photo Journal 56
Desert Violets 61	Violets by Appointment 59
Dyna Gro 64	Violet House 60
H	Violet Showcase 57
Hattie Baggett's African Violets . 61	Violet Venture 57
Herbal Garden Ceramics 64	Volkman Bros. Greenhouses . . 58
Hobby Greenhouse 63	W
I	Wanted: Volkman Bros.
Indoor Gardening Supplies 58	AV Catalogues 57
L	
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses 59	



OFFICERS:

Bill Foster, President
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

Jack Wilson, 1st VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Janet Riemer, 2nd VP
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: jriemer@tiger.junc.net

Linda Owens, 3rd VP
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: lowens4@juno.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

Esther Edwards Wells, Immediate Past President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

The African violet world was deeply saddened by the recent passing of two prominent members, L.T. Ozio, Jr. and Lyndon Lyon. Mr. Ozio served as library chairman, board member, and executive offices leading to the office of president from 1995 to 1997. Mr. Lyon was perhaps the most important hybridizer we have known. His development of the pink African violet was a huge breakthrough. That paved the way for all the many beautiful colors we know today. Mr. Lyon was inducted into the AVSA Hall of Fame at the AVSA convention in Houston. First and foremost, both LT and Lyndon were true gentlemen and were loved and respected by everyone who had the pleasure to know them. I am sure the entire membership joins me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to their families.



Because AVSA is a non-profit organization, occasionally we find it necessary to increase our membership dues, due to the increase in costs of printing the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. We have found it necessary to institute a small increase effective October 1, 1999. However, for the first time, we are offering rates for one, two, or three years. There are two advantages in renewing for the longer term. You save a little money and you don't have to remember to renew for two or three years! Watch for the new rates that will be published in the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.

Most of you are also aware of our special funds that are possible through your generous donations. In order to keep our dues as low as possible, we rely on these funds to help out on expenses. The Building Maintenance Fund does just what the title implies. This fund is used to keep the building in repair. The Boyce Edens Research Fund is used for grants to universities to carry out specified studies on African violets such as diseases, pests, etc. This fund is also the source of our recently implemented scholarship grants. The Booster Fund is used for various expenses, but in recent years part of these funds have been used for the replacement of office equipment. Mr. Bill Lyons is the chairman of the Booster Fund Committee and his current project is to raise funds to purchase a much needed copy machine for the office. He would appreciate your help in this endeavor.

Take care of your violets and yourselves during the upcoming summer heat. Be sure to keep "feeding the kitty" in preparation for your Omaha trip!

Truly,

Bill Foster
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

You are all familiar with the great articles we reprint from our affiliated club publications. These newsletters allow us to share information from around the African violet world. In this issue we're fortunate to have the expertise of two violet professionals, **Ralph** and **Olive Ma Robinson**, in an article from their publication, *VioletsFun Photo Journal*. As the name states, this is a fun publication filled with growing information and personal notes, as Rob and Olive share their violet experiences and travels. Available in English and Chinese, the Robinsons are reaching a diverse group of growers. Read, "How to Repot African Violets", on page 43 (for more information about *VioletsFun* see the ad on page 56).

My friend, **John Beaulieu**, author of the *African Violet and Gesneriad News*, recently sent me an advance copy of his new publication *An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and Their Relatives*. This handy booklet is filled with information for growers, beautiful color photos, and precise illustrations. (see John's ad on page 57, and his article on Fungus Gnats on page 53).

Ways to increase membership in AVSA are something many of us think about. I thought we would focus on some of the stronger, successful affiliated clubs in an attempt to help others find new solutions or ideas for their own local organizations. The first club to be highlighted is the **Cedar**

Valley AVC of Iowa. **Barbara Pershing's** article on page 52 is both interesting and informative. If your club is thriving and you'd like to share your secrets for success, please contact me. These will be run on a "space allows" basis under the heading "What Makes This Club So Successful?"

Thanks to my dear friend, **Ralph Breden**, for the excellent article on page 20, "Originality in Show Schedules". Ralph wrote this article while in Houston for the convention.

Rose Marie Yeates of Florida, sent information that should come in handy to all members of AVSA. Rose Marie uses handy magazine organizers to keep her collection of AVMs in order and in good condition. Many of our other members use these as well. They are plastic strips with a long center hole to slide to the center of the magazines, and have three holes along the outside for insertion into an ordinary 3-ring binder. These "magazine organizers" are available at most office and school supply stores, and are a very inexpensive way to protect your AVMs for future reference. Thanks, **Rose Marie** for sharing this tip.

If you attended the Houston convention, you probably sampled the tasty Texas treats in the Hospitality Suite. Even if you weren't there, you could still try them! **Marge Savage** sent the recipes, and if you'll send me a SASE I'll be happy to mail a copy of them to you.

FIRST THINGS FIRST IN OMAHA



Yes, we want you to "Go Wild in Omaha"! We want you to have fun, and we want you to enjoy the wild things we've got to do here. But first things first! African violets will rule here (right along with gesneriads and designs). We want you to come bringing plants and designs to exhibit!

Next spring you can send in your registration; you can reserve your room; you can buy some new clothes and dye your hair. But NOW you need to choose your plants and set them aside to grow for show. Don't put this off!

We are going to go wild over our exhibitors in Omaha with a special prize. Every exhibitor will get to throw his

or her name into a lottery. When exhibitors have ten or more entries (in any part of the show), their names will be put in the lottery a second time. At the Friday night banquet six names will be drawn from that pool, and each will receive a cash prize of \$50!

That's only the beginning. Imagine the wild times you will have if your plants and designs are chosen for awards! Imagine how wild you'll be if your friends do well! Imagine all those beautiful violets! Pictures will be taken and be on display in our showroom jungle (maybe even with winners posing by the monkey!) Prizes will be awarded! The African Violet Magazine will write it up! Fame, fortune, and violets! Isn't that wild?

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.
Beaumont, TX 77702
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725
(800) 770-2872

Spring has come and gone and summer is upon us. My office is full of the beautiful new violets I purchased at the National Convention in Houston. There were so many to choose from it was hard to pick just a few.

For those of you who made the trip to our office during the convention, we were so glad to have you here. The ladies of the **AVS of Beaumont** did a wonderful job hosting that tour. I want to thank all of them for their hard work. The cookies, cheese trays and other snacks were delicious. A special thanks to **Frankie Pletzer** who saw to all the details of getting ready for convention and who spent many hours at our office grooming and taking care of our violets. Many thanks to **Mary Neff** and **Lou Williford**, for the loving care you gave to our violets so they would look their best for our guests. The office never looked better. Thanks also to the President of the Beaumont club, **Ronna Smalley**, for taking on the task of repotting our entire collection of office violets.

With summer here, we need to start planning for the

September AVM supplement of Judges, Affiliates, and Commercial Growers. **Affiliates, please start sending those officer's changes now. If you have elected new officers but will not install them until later, we need your changes sent in by July 30th.** Please mail them to my attention at the AVSA Office, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX. 77702. If we do not have your correct information by that date your club could be left out of the AVM. Please make sure all dues are paid on time so that your club will not be excluded.

Judges, if your membership is not current you will not be listed in the magazine. Please make sure your dues are paid on time. If your membership lapses between now and then, your name will be left off the judge's list.

We are in need of a new copy machine for the AVSA office. Ours is old and the copies it makes are of very poor quality. Please consider making a donation to the Booster Fund and designate them to be used for the new copier. Thanks.



*AVSA Office Staff shows their support for new President Bill Foster.
(L to R) Joanna McCown, Ruth Rumsey, Bill Foster, Tammi Vice, Jenny Daugereau.*

1999 AVSA Awards

**Hall of Fame Award
To: Lyndon Lyon
Dolgeville, New York**

AVSA presents the Hall of Fame Award to Lyndon Lyon. Mr. Lyon is one of the pioneers of our African violet.

He joined AVSA in 1948, when AVSA was in its second year. Over the years he has had numerous display tables, but in 1954 at the 8th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, Lyndon displayed one of his new hybrids. Everyone was in awe of the first double pink cultivar 'Pink Cloud'. Mr. Lyon has always been a pioneer in hybridizing, including some of the first miniatures and trailing African violets.

Mr. Lyon served on AVSA's Board of Directors and chaired the research committee from 1969 to 1971. Later he served as a member of that committee for over 20 years.

In 1956 Lyndon was awarded the Bronze Medal for the pink double blossomed African violets he had hybridized earlier. He has also hybridized and registered over some 800 varieties to date.

In 1984 Mr. Lyon was awarded an honorary life membership for his many devoted years of service to AVSA.

**Continuing Service Award
To: David Buttram
Independence, Missouri**

The Continuing Service Award is presented to David Buttram. Since 1985, David has visited and highlighted commercial members in his column, "Commercials ... A Closer Look" in the African Violet Magazine. Because of his continued service to AVSA and the commercial members he writes about, David is receiving this award.

David is a judge and a life member. He has been a commercial member of AVSA since 1969. He received an honorary one year membership award in 1991. David has served AVSA as a Director, chaired the Commercial Activities Committee and served on the Membership and Promotion, Publications, Building Site Selection, Typesetting and Printing and International Committees.

Locally, Mr. Buttram is a member of the African Violet Society of Greater Kansas City, Mid-America African Violet Society and Missouri Valley African Violet Council and a commercial member of the Dixie African Violet Society.

**Bronze Medal Award
To: Don and Jean Ness
White Bear Lake, Minnesota**

The prestigious Bronze Medal Award is presented to Don and Jean Ness of Midland Violets for their hybridizing achievements.

The Ness' have been hybridizing African violets for many years and started naming and registering their hybrids in 1986.

They had their first AVSA Commercial Display Table at the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, Texas, which earned them all blue ribbons. Don and Jean continued to have commercial display tables at every convention thereafter until 1996. In their second year of displaying, they won the second best commercial display table and the second best new cultivar with 'Glow Baby'. In the years to follow they always won a Rosette for their display tables. In 1992 they won best new introduction with 'Ness Firefly'. Over the years, Don and Jean have won many awards for their hybrids. Many of their introductions continue to appear on the Honor Roll of African Violets.

**Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership
To: Barbara Elkin
Auburn, California**

This year the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership is presented by AVSA to Barbara Elkin. In Barbara's case, she is honored for her leadership in several affiliates. It is rewarding to see someone so active in numerous clubs.

Barbara is currently President of Capitol African Violet Society. She has also served Capitol City African Violet Society as secretary and vice president. The Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society has been served by Barbara as secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. She has held the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice president and president for the African Violet Society of South Bay. For the Nite Bloomers African Violet Society she has been secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. Barbara has served the Northern California Council of African Violet Society as recording secretary, treasurer, vice president and president. She has been the treasurer for the African Violet Society

Judges Council of Northern California.

Mrs. Elkin currently chairs the Vintage Violet Committee for AVSA and serves on the Awards Committee, Building and Maintenance Committee and Convention Committee. She has been a past Director and member of the Library Committee.

Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

**To: Esther Edwards Wells
Liberty, Missouri**

AVSA honors Esther Edwards Wells with an honorary Lifetime Membership Award for serving the society as it's President.

Esther has also served on AVSA's Executive Committee as it's first vice president, second vice president, and third vice president. She also chaired the Salary Committee, and served as a member of the Bylaws Committee, Publications Committee and the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee.

Esther has served as a director from 1987 to 1990, Awards Committee Chairman from 1989 to 1995, and as Convention Chairman for the 1989 Convention in Kansas City.

Locally Esther is a member of Mid-America African Violet Society, having served the society as president, first vice president, second vice president and treasurer. She is also a charter member of Missouri Valley African Violet Council having served as it's first secretary, bylaws chairman and parliamentarian. Esther is also a charter member of the Midwest African Violet Judges Council.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Jeani Hatfield
Lincoln, California**

AVSA presents to Jeani Hatfield an Honorary One Year Membership Award for serving as the show chairman for the 1998 Sacramento, California Convention.

Jeani has grown African violets and other gesneriads for over 25 years. She is a member of Capitol City African Violet Society having served as show chairman many times.

She is also a member of Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society having served the society as president and vice-president.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Barbara Elkin
Auburn, California**

The honorary One Year Membership Award is presented to Barbara Elkin for serving as the 1998 Sacramento,

California Convention Chairman.

Barbara is a long time member of AVSA, a senior judge and teacher. She also serves on the Awards Committee, Convention Committee, Building and Maintenance Fund Committee and chairs the Vintage Violet Committee.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: John Carter
Houston, Texas**

The AVSA presents John Carter with an Honorary One Year Membership Award for his service to the AVSA office staff in Beaumont.

John spends countless hours at the AVSA office giving the staff technical support for their new computer system. His vast knowledge has helped to make a smooth transition from the old to the new. John has also taken as active interest in the maintenance of the AVSA office. From changing a light bulb to solving a plumbing problem, John never hesitates. When something needs to be done - he does it.

The AVSA office staff knows that John Carter is only a phone call away, and he'll drive over from Houston whenever he is needed.

Honorary One Year Membership Award

**To: Ann Miller
Spring, Texas**

An Honorary One Year Membership Award is presented to Ann Miller for the time and the effort she has expended in her job as Convention Chairman. Ann has worked tirelessly to provide conventioners a comfortable hotel and exciting tours.

Locally, Mrs. Miller was a member of Sweet Vi-o-lets from 1982 to 1989 serving as the society's secretary, vice-president, president and show chairman.

In 1989 she moved to Ohio and joined a club in Springfield. Ann started a club in Dayton and served as the president until she moved back to Texas.

Tinari Award

**To: Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council
St. Louis, Missouri**

This year the Tinari Award for the most new memberships is presented to the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council. Their hard work and dedication to AVSA has earned them this award.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Have you ever gone to a dinner where several women have made the same recipe? Did you notice that each dish was different? The cooks may have used slightly different methods, or deviated from quality ingredients (or if they cook as poorly as Joyce, they substituted freely!) Sometimes each is good in its own way, but often there will be one that stands above all the others. The details make a difference!

That's true in growing African violets as well. You may believe that your friend grows exactly like you, but there are always variations in the details. One of you probably gets results that stand above the other's. What is the other grower doing that is so different??!!

Temperature

One subtle but key detail is keeping the violet growing area at relatively even temperatures, near 72 degrees Fahrenheit, with a slight drop at night, year around. When violets are grown significantly cooler than that, growth will be slower and more compact with deeper flower colors. When they are grown warmer, the growth will be quicker with a more open pattern and lighter flower colors. If you allow the temperatures to vary widely (more than ten degrees) during the 24-hour day, you will get the toughened look that discount violets often have. It comes as a result of growing in a greenhouse where temperatures

vary twenty or thirty degrees in a twenty-four-hour period. Temperature fluctuations also greatly increase the chances for fungal diseases.

It is easy to think that your temperatures don't change much, but if you use fluorescent lights, it will be warmer when they are on. If you try to save on heating or cooling costs, you may be allowing the air temperature to climb slightly higher or cool slightly more than plants really like. Don't think that if you can stand it, it won't hurt your violets.

Thermometers that measure the high and the low for the day can be helpful in determining how much temperature change there is.

It is also important to keep temperatures even from season to season. Failure to do so may result in "growth breaks" in the leaf pattern. This means that leaves grown in one season are a different size than those from the previous season. This unevenness is not as satisfying as the perfect rows of ever-larger leaves seen on the best-grown violets.

Potting Mix

You probably already know about the detail of using only top-notch potting soil. Finding the mix that works best with the other conditions in your growing area can be challenging. Once you have found a mix, stay with it! Soil components can vary greatly from one supplier to another.

so be careful about switching brands.

Even if you use the same mix as your friend, however, the potting technique can make a huge difference. Violet roots are very delicate and will not develop well in heavily packed soil. The grower who fills in around the roots with loose mix, never packing it down, will get healthier and more vigorous growth. If you are unsure, try pushing a finger into the root ball. If you can push all the way to the bottom with little resistance, the soil is loose enough. If you cannot push below the soil line, the mix is packed far too tightly, and plants would benefit from being transplanted into a looser mix.

Speaking of transplanting, more successful growers transplant at least once each year, and maybe more often if a "neck" becomes visible below the leaves above the soil.

Pots

There are several important details about pots that can affect results.

Most beginning growers assume that every time violets are repotted they must go into larger pots. In fact, each violet hybrid has a set genetic size for both its leaves and its roots. As a rule, a violet with the genetic ability to grow an overall leaf span twelve inches in diameter, will have a root ball that is only one-third that size, and a four inch pot is perfect. A plant that grows to eighteen inches in diameter will do best in a six-inch pot. Ideal pot size is one-third the diameter of the foliage.

At the same time, the roots will rarely go deeper than about four inches. So all pots, regardless of diameter, must be quite squatty. The goal is to have the roots fill the pot completely, creating a rootbound plant. When that is accomplished, violets will usually bloom freely.

Note also, each plant gets its own pot. If you want a decorative look of multiple violets in a container, group pots together. It is best to give each plant its own pot.

The design of pots can also affect root development. We have recently begun using pots that have bottoms with raised areas to allow air to move under the pot. Roots love air, and plants grown in these pots are stronger than those grown in pots with completely flat bottoms.

Decorative pots have their place, but top growers generally favor the humble plastic pot with a rolled edge to protect leaves that rest there. Also, flexible sides make it easier to lift violets out of plastic pots when repotting. Finally, constant water methods generally work best with plastic rather than clay pots. Once a violet is looking spectacular, no one looks at the pot anyway!

Even the color of the pot may be an important detail. Some growers believe that light should not reach the roots, as nature intended roots to grow in darkness. Therefore these growers prefer dark green pots or white pots that are lined with a dark color.

Fertilizer

Mastering fertilizer is a very important detail. First, you must be careful to use a quality fertilizer, recommended for violets. Growers have widely varying opinions on the best fertilizer formulation. As a general rule, if your violets are blooming well and your foliage isn't marred with fertilizer burn around the leaf edges, you have a good fertilizer for your situation. If that isn't true, you may need to change the rate of fertilizing or the brand and type.

Second, you must master the rate at which you apply fertilizer. It is so easy to be careless about measurements! Do not be tempted to use a little more or to overlap using two different types. Pay attention to the label directions and, if anything, use it at a slightly lower rate!

Finally, good growers are conscientious about leaching the soil in each pot occasionally. This is done to remove excess salts from the root ball, and is especially important if your plants draw most of their water up from the bottom of the pot (rather than getting it from the top). Leaching is done by pouring clear (unfertilized) water into the top of the pot and allowing it to run through the soil and out the bottom. Ideally this should be done every six weeks to two months.

One last note, if you have used the same fertilizer for years and never had a problem until now, be aware that some manufacturers have altered their formulation to use lower quality, less costly, ingredients. Once problems occur, it is wise to look into changing brands.

Water

Water may look like water, but it may be the most variable detail of all. Busy lifestyles may cause a grower to forget or put off watering. Even one day of water stress may have a marked detrimental effect on violets. If you tend to be irregular about watering, find an alternate system that ensures consistent moisture to your plants. On the opposite side, a violet should not be left standing in a saucer full of water for more than thirty minutes or so. Doing so may cause serious damage to roots and make your plants highly vulnerable to crown rot fungi.

Some water contains salts that damage plants; softened water, for example, must never be used to water violets. Some areas of the country have high salt content in the city water supplies. If your area has this problem, you must find an alternate source of water such as collecting fresh clean rain water. Also be aware that well water can have high levels of nitrates from fertilizer runoff. Salt damage begins by causing cells at the edge of the leaf to fail and progresses across the entire leaf. Long term exposure to salt may kill violets.

Water may vary in its pH levels as well. It is most desirable to use water with a neutral pH that is near 7. If that is not possible, you may have to buffer the soil mix to

counteract acidic or alkaline conditions. When pH is incorrect, plants cannot take up fertilizer. When violet leaves become increasingly yellowed even though fertilizer is being applied, it would be wise to check the soil pH. Some growers in our area have noticed that the water pH in the city water system varies from season to season forcing a sort of constant vigilance.

Chilling or heating roots can also have a negative effect on growth. Hot or cold water can destroy root hairs. This damage shows up on leaves as irregular patterns of white to yellow streaks. Use water that is the same temperature as the air so that the root temperature remains unchanged. This is most easily accomplished by allowing water to stand for several hours before applying to plants.

Humidity

Another very fine point of growing comes in maintaining levels of humidity that encourage blooming, but avoiding levels that allow fungus to become uncontrollable. If possible, maintain humidity around 50%. At that level, tiny buds will develop rather than drying up. Flowers will last and will have a larger size. In dry home atmospheres, open trays of water or a humidifier can be helpful.

Once humidity goes over 70%, however, fungus is likely to become a major problem. You also need to understand a plant's need to transpire (breathe off) moisture into the air. It acts as a sort of pump to bring water up through the roots. When violets are grown in extra high humidity, transpiration does not occur very efficiently. If water isn't being drawn up from the roots, neither is fertilizer! If you grow in an extremely humid area, a dehumidifier can be very helpful.

Good Light

Light is another key detail. Remember that no two windows are exactly the same. Windows vary by size, directional location, type of glass, window coverings, outdoor plants which alter the light, and reflective surfaces in the area. So many good growers find that they "lose their green thumb" when they move into a new home. The right window makes all the difference.

An ideal window must be fairly large, should not be overly shadowed or draped, and must not get hot when the sun is shining directly into the window. Nearby reflective surfaces (like another building or body of water) can increase the light in windows that might otherwise be insufficient.

Keeping the light evenly exposed to every leaf on your plant is another tiny detail. Window growers especially, must remember to turn pots regularly to avoid getting violets that lean to the side toward the incoming light.

Many violet growers prefer to control the light by using fluorescent lights. Even then, the details matter! It is best to use newer tubes (old ones light less brightly). The lights must be quite close to the leaves (within a foot or so) and on for up to fourteen hours a day. Note that the lights must be off for a period of time each day as well. Many types of fluorescent tubes will produce adequate light for violets, but some growers are quite fussy about the brand or spectrum of light in their tubes. It's a detail they think is important!

Another light detail concerns how plants are reacting to light. Plants which seem to reach upward should be moved to brighter spots. Plants that appear to be bleaching (leaves losing their rich green color) should be moved to slightly dimmer spots. You can increase or decrease the amount of light by lengthening or shortening the "on" time, or lowering or raising the fluorescent light fixture.

Paying Attention

Really good growers notice minuscule changes in each violet. This power of observation allows them to make corrections in growing conditions, to catch disease or pests in early stages, and to recognize the potential of really good violet hybrids. Often this is almost subconscious for them; they might not put their finger on what changed, but they know something is not the same.

Sometimes the changes are reactions to environmental conditions. In that case, violets should be relocated, repotted, or perhaps rejected. At the same time, it may be a tip-off that a change has occurred in the growing environment that has gone unnoticed. Perhaps there is a gas leak, or a light timer that has broken (leaving lights on for twenty-four hours), or a manufacturer who has changed a key ingredient in your soil components or fertilizer.

Sometimes the changes are the first hint that insects or fungi have invaded. Either of these unwelcome guests are much easier to get rid of if they are stopped before they begin to multiply. Moving insects may be hard to spot, but spilled pollen on flowers, white cottony masses on the foliage or in the soil, or tight twisted center leaves should set off your alarms. Fungus can take on several forms, but the most common seems to be the powdery white areas on leaves or flowers that are caused by powdery mildew.

Just Details

We once heard a joke about a top grower. "She's the type who looks at her watch and says, 'Oh my! It's time to add the eggshells!'" That grower won the national show one year. She never misses a detail if she can help it, and her plants reflect the attention. Pay attention to the big stuff, but don't forget the details. It can make all the difference.

Best Articles of 1998 Earn AVSA Certificates of Appreciation

by Jane Rexilius, Publications Committee Chairman

Each year the AVSA Board of Directors and members of the Publications Committee select the five best articles published during the previous year in the African Violet Magazine.

These winners were presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the annual AVSA Convention, as well as receiving a One Year membership to AVSA for a non-member.

Authors for the Best Articles of 1998, honored at the 1999 Houston Convention were:

Bob Green, Rockledge, FL - "Rhythm in Design"

David Buttram, Independence, MO - "The Name of the Game is the Name"

Ruth Goeke, Brenham, TX - "Natural Gardens"

Bev Promersberger, Monument, CO - "A Helping Hand into the Future"

Shirley Sanders, San Antonio, TX - "From Russia With Love"

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE AWARD

The Houston Convention has passed and what a great time we had! Thanks for all that "KING SIZED" hospitality y'all showed us!

Now is the time to get your awards in for the "WILD" convention in Omaha. I know that most affiliates are vacationing but you still can get an early start on the next convention by sending your awards now to:

Mrs. Linda L Golubski - AVSA Awards Chairman

1416 N.W. A Street • Blue Springs, Mo 64015

816-229-2051 after 6:00PM CDT • e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Please be sure your checks are made payable in U.S. funds to: **AVSA Convention Fund**. Be sure to include a contact name, address and phone number. When making a specific request for an award, please remember that AVSA now makes special awards for all the top winners.

Thank you very much for your continued support of AVSA conventions.

Entries Program Update

by Joe Bruns

The AVSA Show Entries program was used successfully at the AVSA Convention and Show to classify and enter over 800 exhibits. Since version 1.2.0 of the program was released in March, several improvements have been made. You can download the latest version (1.2.6 as of this writing) from the following web page: <http://www.flash.net/~jbruns/entries.htm>. The page also lists any changes which have been made to the program. This program will not run unless you have installed a previous version on your computer.

Please note that AVSA Show Entries will not run under Windows 3.1. You will need Windows 95 or Windows 98. Also, your show schedule cannot have any subclasses (e.g. 16a and 16b). The program does not process subclasses.

I would like to thank all those who helped with the testing phase of the program, especially Christel Collier (Florida), with whom I exchanged well over 100 e-mail messages, Lynn Lombard (California), and Ray Foreman (Ontario, Canada). Their suggestions were invaluable.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

It is important that people who hybridize African violets keep excellent genetic records of their crosses and on the types of offspring the cross produced. While many traits in African violets are genetic dominants and are expressed and observed if present, other traits are genetic recessives and can't be detected by visual inspection of the plants. The only way to know if the parents carry genetic recessives is to examine the parents of the plants used in a cross, or in the offspring produced by a cross. Once a hidden recessive has been detected, the genetic records can record the information for use in planning future crosses. The first two questions in this month's column are illustrations of the problems caused by hidden genes.

Q: *I would like to do a cross of 'Tomorrow's Starlight' X 'Pueblo'. Does 'Tomorrow's Starlight' have any hidden recessive genes for pink or coral?*

A: 'Tomorrow's Starlight' is a raspberry-edged plant with the edge color in fuchsia or regular red. These colors are dominant to regular pink, or coral pink. Therefore, it cannot be determined by inspection if this plant has the recessives for pink or coral pink. Another possible way to tell if the recessives are present is to examine the parents of the plant. Since I hybridized 'Tomorrow's Starlight', I know that one of the parents has fuchsia raspberry edged flowers and that the other parent has blue flowers with a fuchsia raspberry edge. Since neither parent has pink or coral pink flowers we cannot know for certain if these recessives are present. The only way to determine if the recessives are present would be to make a test cross of 'Tomorrow's Starlight' with a pink, or coral pink flowered plant such as 'Pueblo'. If any coral colored (coral pink or coral red) offspring are produced, then 'Tomorrow's Starlight' has the recessive gene for coral. If any pink or coral pink offspring are produced, then

'Tomorrow's Starlight' carries the recessive for pink. If only fuchsia red offspring are produced, then 'Tomorrow's Starlight' has either the pink nor coral genes as a recessive.

Once the results of a test cross are known, keep the presence or absence of the recessive genes in your genetic records. This will, allow you to know how to use 'Tomorrow's Starlight' in making future crosses involving the recessive genes of pink or coral colors.

Q: *I recently crossed a double white flowered plant with 'Grand Master'. Out of 53 offspring, only one was similar to 'Grand Master' (dark purple with a raspberry edge). The other offspring showed white, pink and purple flowers. Many of the pink flowered plants showed raspberry edges and/or Geneva edges. Some of the purple flowered plants had Geneva edges. Do you have any explanation for these results?*

A: The variety of offspring in your cross shows some of the fun and excitement that can be produced when hybridizing African violets. The explanation of the results comes from looking at both the parents and the offspring, one trait or color at a time. Blue is a dominant to all other colors. Since you have many non-blue offspring, 'Grand Master' must carry a recessive for pink and possible white flowers. The presence of raspberry edges is easy to explain because 'Grand Master' has this dominant trait. Since not all of the offspring showed raspberry edges, 'Grand Master' must only have one copy of this gene. The presence of Geneva edges is a pleasant surprise. I don't believe 'Grand Master' has this dominant trait. Therefore, it must have been inherited from the white flowered parent. Of course, if you put a white edge on a white flower, you would not detect that the dominant gene for Geneva edges is present.

I would have predicted more than one offspring with the

coloration of 'Grand Master'. However, you might actually have several offspring that are blue with red edges. The red coloring of the edge is sometimes very subtle when combined with blue or purple flowers and doesn't always show clearly. If you look at your blue/purple offspring closely in bright sunlight, I would expect you'll find a few more with the raspberry edge trait. It sounds like you got some very nice plants and I hope you enjoy them.

Q: Is the tendency for some plants to produce multiple crowns a genetic trait or is it caused by culture?

A: The tendency for plants to form multiple crowns is both genetic and cultural. Cultivars that form multiple crowns on

a regular basis probably do so for genetic reasons. The Dates hybrid 'Nymph Fly', which has bustled foliage, is such an example. Since this is considered an undesired trait, many plants with this tendency have been selected against and are no longer available. In other cultivars, the tendency to form multiple crowns may well be caused as a response to a culture break. I've noticed that when some plants are shocked by bad or extra good growing conditions, they will form multiple crowns. Since multiple crowns are a show fault, select plants that don't seem to form multiple crowns easily, then grow them on consistent conditions to avoid culture breaks. This practice should help you prevent forming multiple crowns in potential show plants.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from February 1, 1999 - March 31, 1999

Carlsbad AVS, Fallbrook, CA 10.00

In memory of Norma Bartges, a charter member

Hoosier AVC, St. Paul, Mn. 10.00

In memory of Frank Szewczyk

Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM 25.00

Irma Estela Mejia, Woodbridge, VA. 5.00

Elizabeth Jean Curry, Kokomo, In. 7.00

Denise Fortain, La Verne, Ca 5.00

Alma Hummer, San Antonio, TX 10.00

Elena Martinez, Miami, FL 10.00

Robin O'Ferrell, Akron, OH 15.00

Mrs. W. F. Peterson, Downey, CA. 2.00

Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX. 10.00

Elaine Buth, Oakland, CA 10.00

Ovella Ruth Hall,

Hot Springs National Park, AK 15.00

Mrs. John J. Krouse, Plainfield, NJ. 15.00

Billings Bloomers AVS, Billings, MT 10.00

Helen Handwerk, Lakewood, CO 10.00

Joe & Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL 10.00

Mrs. Albert W. Koch, Clayton, MO 5.00

Ralph A. Mancusi, Orange Park, FL 7.00

Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI 5.00

Mrs. D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT. 10.00

Carolyn McKenzie, Port Huron, MI. 2.00

Maralyn Nunnery, Azusa, CA 10.00

Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD 10.00

Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA 10.00

Donald Ferguson, Montgomery, AL 5.00

Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY 10.00

Joan Hraban, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10.00

F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Eatontown, NJ. 20.00

Lois Measures, Oxnard, CA 10.00

Mrs. G. E. Harmon, New York, NY. 5.00

Nancy Johnston, Bakersfield, CA 10.00

Claudette A. Schaaf, Arvada, CO 5.00

AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN 15.00

In memory of Laura Ballis

Mrs. Fred Grafelmann, San Francisco, CA 5.00

Fred Grafelmann, San Francisco, CA. 5.00

Daniel Ringhand, New Glarus, WI 7.00

AVS of San Francisco 15.00

Smith's Country Cottage AVS, Spencerport, NY . . 25.00

Dorothy M. Duran, Lynn, MA 25.00

Evelyn J. Boyer, Austin, TX. 20.00

Henrietta Leach, Bronx, NY. 7.00

Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY 2.00

Jeffrey Walsh, Norcross, GA. 10.00

AVS of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN 2.00

Martha Compton, Bloomington, IL 7.00

Eileen M. Mors, Durham, NC. 7.00

Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI 10.00

Colin Dimon, Vestal, NY 10.00

Grace Ferry, Transfer, PA. 5.00

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis, MO . 10.00

Mrs. Edward Hill, Esko, MN 7.00

Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO 10.00

Joyce Stenger, Houston, TX 20.00

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.

Maxine George, Topeka, KS. 10.00

In memory of Alice Clawson, who was a dedicated member of Topeka AVS, and my good friend

Seattle AVS, Seattle, WA 25.00

In memory of Jeanne Myers, a long time member of SAVS

Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00

Carole Domnitz, Bellemore, NY 5.00

Theresa White, Middleburg, FL 5.00

Nancy Weller, Virginia Beach, VA. 2.00

Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN 2.00

Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT 10.00

Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI. 15.00

Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 10.00

Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00

Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA 3.00

Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA 25.00

Springfield Chapter AVS, Springfield, MO. . . . 20.00

Rebecca Bice, Loveland, CO 2.00

Roseline Fujimore, Honolulu, HI. 10.00

Betty Hoff, Lincoln, NE. 50.00

Romona Like, Morrow, GA 5.00

Bruce E. Parker, Fairfax, VA 2.00

Lucy Glaser, Bristol, NH 2.00

Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00

Paul Poeschl, Oskosh, WI 10.00

Larry Robinson, Lincoln, NE 50.00

Larry Watkins, McLean, VA. 5.00

Terry F. Klemesrud, Brooklyn Park, MN 20.00

Albert Maddux, Milton, FL 5.00

Judith Hess, Greendale, WI 2.00

Barbara H. Werness, Coons Rapids, MN 10.00

Amy Trept, Arlington, TX 5.00



Thinking Small



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: Patter257@aol.com

Howdy! (Listen, you can't spend a week in Texas without being affected in some way.) The Lone Star Violet Roundup, AVSA's 53rd annual convention, was superb! African violet lovers went home feeling very pleased after viewing the show room filled with more than 800 beautiful exhibits. Today we'll discuss the many beautiful miniature and semiminature entries, and some of the new introductions we can look forward to growing!

WINNERS ALL!

While the small ones had to yield to an extremely well grown standard for top honors, they still made their "small" contribution to the winners table. Kathy Lahti, who is well known and respected for her tremendous growing abilities, grew the 2nd Best African Violet in the Show 'Teen Sweetheart', a Hortense Pittman hybrid. This perfectly lovely semi mini held its delicate lavender blooms trimmed with a faint white edge well above the light green variegated foliage. It was part of Kathy's 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection which featured 'Definitely Darryl', a perennially reliable show plant, and 'Optimara Little Aztec', a semiminature with dark reddish purple semidouble blooms. Also gracing the winners table was a plant grown by me, 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', hybridized by Rahim Wilson, as the 3rd Best African Violet in Show. This miniature has absolutely perfect forming medium to dark green foliage, and covers itself with an abundance of light pink double blooms. It's a winner in every sense of the word, and as much as I hate to say, "I told you so," please refer to my column in the African Violet Magazine, November/December 1998, page 12, when I wrote, "Don't underestimate this simplistic description because this plant is fantastic!"

Bev Promersberger had another wonderful convention,

exhibiting the Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', 'Dean's Wildfire', and 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'. These semiminatures were beautifully grown and deserving of the award. I've reviewed the first two in previous columns, so I'll only discuss 'Dean's Wildfire', a beautiful semiminature with medium green Tommie-Lou variegation, loaded with single fuchsia blooms held well above the foliage. This plant was very striking and absolutely gorgeous.

TRULY SMALL!

Of special note in the small collections were Palma Trapp's collection of miniatures, 'Rob's Penny Ante' (white with dark blue-purple eye), 'Rob's Twinkle Pink' (medium pink semi doubles), and 'Texas Space Dust' (light pink singles atop perfect variegated foliage). All were very tiny plants, probably about 3" across, topped with an abundance of beautiful blooms. They give true meaning to the word "miniature." I'll repeat, 'Texas Space Dust', a Pittman hybrid, was seen throughout the show and is a cultivar well worth growing. Obviously many growers have exceptional luck with it!

It was also wonderful to see the return of Pat Tillman to exhibiting in national conventions. In 1989, when the national convention was in Kansas City, Pat (then Pat Champagne) entered more than 30 plants to take sweepstakes honors, all or most of which were small ones. I had just joined the local violet clubs, and was awed and amazed at the perfection of her exhibits which looked like ice cream scoops of blooms had been dumped on them. Her entries in Houston were nothing less than what she'd exhibited ten years ago, being tiny masterpieces: much like Palma's, they often measured no more than 3" across, with normal sized blooms literally covering the foliage. Her

small collection included the Pittman classic 'Precious Pink', 'Red Bandito', another Pittman cultivar that deserves wider recognition with its ruby-red single blooms atop perfectly forming very dark foliage, and 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy'. Pat also won the award for the best Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Fluorite', with light lavender blooms, and 'Optimara Little Crystal' and 'Optimara Rose Quartz', two of the best of the Little Jewel cultivars. Pat, it's good to have you back!

Kathi Lahti took the 2nd Best Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Little Opal' and 'Optimara Little Ruby', while Linda Golubski took 3rd best with 'Optimara Little Amethyst', 'Optimara Little Pearl' and 'Optimara Rose Quartz'.

COMMERCIAL VETERANS

Darryl Hoover led the commercial winners with the Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection which included a perfectly grown 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Optimara Little Diamond' and 'Optimara Little Crystal'. All displayed beautifully symmetrical, well-grown foliage, and as a collection rivaled the best grown Holtkamp plants I've seen. Shirley Sanders had the 2nd Best Commercial Holtkamp collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal' that appeared to be all bloom, 'Optimara Rose Quartz', and 'Optimara Little Lapis'. Shirley has no problem loading the blooms on her plants! Olive Ma Robinson exhibited the 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection with semiminatures: 'Optimara Little Aztec', 'Optimara Little Shoshone', a light pink with darker pink eye, and 'Optimara Little Apache', a great semi mini with medium pink blooms with darker centers and very dark, red backed symmetrical growing foliage. Welcome to exhibiting in national conventions, Olive. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

The best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection went to Shirley Sanders with 'Aca's Pink Pet', a delightful pink blossomed miniature with dark symmetrical foliage that is gaining favor with many growers, 'Optimara Rose Quartz' and 'Texas Space Dust'. Olive Ma Robinson exhibited the 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Optimara Little Blackfoot', a delightful semi mini with very dark purple red single blooms on very dark foliage, 'Optimara Little Cheyenne' which has blooms of blue with a white center and can be a little unstable, and the very beautiful hybrid by Sidney Sorano, 'Classic Rock'. This ethereal cultivar has lovely pastel lavender blooms with a darker eye atop light green and white variegated foliage.

Ken Froboese showed the 3rd best specimen plant in the commercial section with another Pittman classic 'Gleeful Elf'. This miniature has been written about a number of times, and deserves to be grown by everyone simply for its abundantly produced masses of blooms. It simply loves to grow and to bloom! Also in the specimen

classes, Olive Ma Robinson exhibited a truly striking 'Orchard's Nite Lite' which has very dark, almost black foliage and nicely contrasting pure white blooms. It's another Rahim Wilson cultivar that is most deserving of wide recognition.

NEW AND IMPROVED!

Finally, to the Best Commercial Display Table shown by Ralph Robinson of Rob's Mini-o-lets. Rob took home honors for the Best and 2nd Best New Introductions with 'Rob's Hallucination' and 'Rob's Hand Puppet', respectively. 'Rob's Hallucination' is a very unusual semiminature because of its unusual Champion variegated foliage of dark green, tan, and light green. Its pointed leaves layer beautifully and are consistently symmetrical. The blooms are a lovely dark blue with pink puff fantasy. With all that color it's quite a "wild" looking plant and is well worth growing! 'Rob's Hand Puppet' is a delightful pastel blossomed semiminature chimera. The delicate blooms of pink with pastel blue, almost lavender center stripes are quite dainty and not of particularly great substance, but they are sticktight and are produced so plentifully it's not a problem. It is also very good about coming back into bloom quickly. The plant is wonderful as well, with delightfully hairy, medium green symmetrical foliage.

Other plants on his table worth noting were: 'Rob's Ice Ripples', a miniature with white with blue edge blooms on wavy green foliage that is very attractive and fresh looking. 'Rob's Rinky Dink' is a red blossomed miniature with very nice, pointed, dark foliage, excellent for showing. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' was the best exhibit on his table. This 1997 introduction is a very attractive, creamy pink blossomed variety atop nicely overlapping Champion variegated foliage of yellow and green, often with a touch of pink. Many growers have taken to this plant and indeed, Rob believes it is one of his best plants ever. 'Rob's Fuzzy Navel' has a beautifully ruffled light pink semi double bloom reminiscent of 'Rob's Perfect Peach', only much prettier. 'Rob's Bamboozle' has a rosy pink pansy bloom with a darker eye and appears to be great for show! 'Rob's Oopsie Daisy' can only be described as "cute." It is a semiminature chimera with pink and white blooms atop Champion variegated foliage. My favorite on the table was 'Rob's Outer Orbit', a beautiful dark-blue single pansy with pink puff fantasy and a fine white edge, borne on semiminature variegated foliage. It is a very attractive cultivar, and is more refined compared to 'Rob's Hallucination'.

NEXT TIME

We'll "sweat the small stuff" in the September column when we examine the finer points of miniature and semiminature culture. Have a great summer, keep the violets watered, and we'll talk soon.



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

The Houston AVSA Convention had an amazing display of 110 entries in the amateur classes. The winners were:

Class 51. Miniatures: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Dale Martens**

Class 52. Tuberous-rooted: *Sinningia kautskyi* x *S. hirsuta*, **Dolores Gibbs**

Class 53. Scaly-rhizome: *Gloxinia 'Chic'*, **Dale Martens**

Class 54. Fibrous rooted: *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* (labeled as *Columnnea 'Tigridia'*), **Fred Packer**

Class 55. Foliage class: *Episcia 'Pink Panther'*, **Janet Castiglione**

Best Gesneriad: **Fred Packer's** *xColtrichantha 'Midget'*

2nd Best Gesneriad: **Pat Richards' Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'**

3rd Best Gesneriad: **Dale Martens' Sinningia pusilla**

Best Gesneriad Commercial: Grown by **Dave Harris** of Dave's Violets, *Streptocarpus 'Blue Thunder'*

Gesneriad growers Fay Wagman and Maryjane Evans pointed out to me that Fred Packer's *Columnnea 'Tigridia'* is actually *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* (*Trichantha minor* x *Columnnea 'Dart'*). So that's how it'll be written in this column.

Margery Clive (formerly the African Queen commercial grower), Connie Leifeste, Chris Orcholski and I entered our own new hybrids. Margery's *Sinningia 'Girlfren'* is a calyx double. Connie's new hybrids included her delightful pink miniature *Sinningia 'Cow Patty.'* She also entered a fragrant *Sinningia speciosa 'Rosemarie'* grown by her from seed from my fragrant *S. speciosa 'Touch of Spice.'* Chris Orcholski from Southern California has been hybridizing *Streptocarpus* and entered a pretty one she named *Streptocarpus 'Mini Mary'* but it's not a miniature. I entered my hybrids *Smithiantha 'Texas Campfire Embers'* and an *Achimenes* which should have read *xAchimenantha* (my fault) since it was a cross between *Achimenes 'Tiny Blue'*

and *xAchimenantha 'Inferno.'* It's a compact plant with red-purple blossoms. Nothing extraordinary, but the size is good at 7" tall with one early-stage pinching.

Pat Richards told me her 2nd Best Gesneriad, *Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'* had 65+ blossoms right before leaving by car from Kansas. She sure can grow that plant! It happens to be my hybrid (*S. 'Pegasus'* x *S. kentaniensis*).

Dolores Gibbs of Texas entered a very large and trailing *Nautilocalyx porphyrostachys* in full bloom. The blossoms are bright orange with yellow in the tube and with a black edge. Luckily the judges took a close look and saw the black coloration wasn't the blossoms beginning to die!

I asked Fred Packer about his prize winning Best Gesneriad and he reported, "My *xColtrichantha 'Midget'* has been in continuous bloom since I brought it home from Lyons Greenhouses back in September 1998. Granted, there are usually much less blooms at any particular time, but the plant is always in bloom. Sidney suggested I try it just as a test. I picked up the other baskets at the same time. I fell for *Columnnea 'Julia'* in Sacramento, grown beautifully by Lynn Lombard, and decided right there to try several of the columnneas as show plants. Paul Sorano (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses) pots up baskets using Pro Mix and lightens up the soil mix using an extra 20% perlite. I use a rotating fertilizer schedule, switching between Peters 20-20-20, and Schultz, and any other reputable fertilizer made for African violets. I used one-quarter strength of whatever the recommendations were on the fertilizer package. I fertilized with every other watering, watering from the top only. I confess to having used "Bloom Booster" in January, just as an experiment. These conditions are what worked for me for this plant."

Some questions came up about gesneriad judging:

1) My plant has buds with color and no open blossoms. Should I enter it in the Gesneriads in Bloom class or should I
(continued on bottom of page 17)

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
 2855 Gayle Lane
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674
 email jabar@foothill.net

Growing African violets for many years makes you deft at treating plant problems and diseases. Thrips, mite, meyls, mildew and root-rot to name just a few. You can treat them with all types of medical miracles. Two days ago my computer developed a disease, called a virus. At this point, I would like to apologize to anyone that caught my malady through my E-Mail correspondence. I believe my computer is now cured. I have sprayed it with Avid and Kelthane solutions and its hard drive is sitting in Marathon crystals. Its memory is still smoking. With any luck, diligence and Norton Systems will keep me forever

clean. The airways are full of warnings about these problems. Beware of those attachments, they can be deadly!!!

The response to the March 1999 AVM Most Wanted List was tremendous. Thank you all for reading and responding to all those requests. Our Master List of Vintage Violets is now 75 pages long! AVSA has the nicest, kindest and sharing members of any society.

As always, when someone is kind enough to share something with you, please return the postage, asked for or not.

AVSA MOST WANTED LIST

Ablaze	Blue Fling	Chapel Boy	Deleon Posie	Fashion Frenzy	Gay Coquette	Krista Lynn	Lilac Lassy	LuLu Belle
Albino Blue Eyes	Blue LeFleur	Chiffon Wasp	Diana Ross	Fire Buggy	Gay Miss	Kuhl's Parnassus	Linda's Love	Madison's
Andy Griffiths	Blue Morning	Coconut Fluff	Donna Lynn	First Recital	Gay Paree	Kuhl's Pink	Little Boy Blue	Whisper Blue
Apple Valley	Glory	Colonial Pink	Double Orchid	Flamingo Girl	Green Hornet	Treasure	Little Busy Bee	Mammy
Aunt Clara	Blue Parade	Comanche	Girl	Frathe's Debbie	Grenadier	Kuhl's Roundelay	Little Geneva	Martha
Azure Trinket	Blue Smoke	Maid	Double Pink	Frathe's Most	Gypsy Charm	Kuhl's Traile Rose	Princess	My Darling
Baby Girl Spoon	Blue Sprite	Conchita	Cameo	Precious	Gypsy Trail	Lady Aura	Little Joan	Mysterium
Baby Helen	Blue Wren	Coral Satin	Double Take	Fredette's Elita	Hawaiian Eye	Laredo Lad	Little Lois	Old Dominion
Baby Lace	Bonnie Lassie	Cornucopia	Double Velvet	Fried Blue	Helen Van Pelt	Last Snow	Little Love	Sparkler
Benjamin	Button Trinket	Crimson Glow	Girl	Fried Orchid	Wilson	Lavender Blue	Little LuLu	Peach Ruffles
Bergen Strawberry	Buttons & Bows	Dagmar	Double Wild	Rosette	Jo's Velveteen	Lavender Elfyn Girl	Little Miss Texas	Silver Champion
Sherbet	Camellia	Dainty Maid	Rosa	G. G. Blue	Kansas City	Leawalla	Little Ruddy	Wine and Roses
Black Velvet	Care Deeply	Deep Sea	Edna Haugh	Empress	Chief	LeBaron	Little Seabird	
Blue Albino Girl	Casu Small	Treasure	Fantasy Double	G. G. Fuchsia	Kansas City	Levittown	Lola	
Blue Buttercup	Cerise	Deleon Pixie	Ann	Bride	Royal	Liberty Belle	Love Song	

(continued from page 16)

cut off those buds and enter it in the Gesneriads Grown for Foliage class?

Answer: It seems you have no choice but to remove the buds with color and enter it in the Foliage class. Although the AVSA Handbook doesn't address this issue, the AGGS Flower Show Manual states, "Buds showing color count toward Quantity of Bloom, as do colorful berries. A plant must have SOME OPEN FLOWERS to qualify for the section Gesneriads in Bloom." Therefore, the plant without some open flowers, but with buds showing color, would NOT QUALIFY for the section of Gesneriads in Bloom. Plants with colored buds would not qualify for the Foliage class.

2) A couple of clear containers at the AVSA convention were filled with multiple plantings of gesneriads. Some of the

plants and blossoms were pushing against the sides and tops of the clear containers. Is it OK to have gesneriads touching the sides and tops of containers?

Answer: With containers jam-packed with plants, it is too difficult for the judges to ascertain whether the gesneriads inside the containers had reached their full potential. There isn't a problem with a "mild" touching of the sides and top of a clear container or terrarium, but when the leaves and/or blossoms are smashed and turned or distorted while touching the container, then that's an area of points deducted under "Condition" since this could have been remedied on or near show time. Judges' comments could suggest that plants crushed or distorted against the container should have been removed, allowing the rest of the plants to display their full potential.

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601
email: dot3joe@earthlink.net

The most often asked questions I receive are related to root rot which becomes stem rot. Then the natural progression is that the outer row of leaves collapse and the process continues until the plant is lost. Almost always the grower relates a story of repotting plants and then of the plants demise. Do ask yourself these questions when repotting: Am I increasing the volume of soil to such an extent that the roots will be damaged from the extra moisture in the new pot? (The volume of the soil in the space involved coupled with your usual watering practices can produce a lethal condition when too much soil is employed in repotting) Are you moving from a shallow pot to a much deeper pot? Are the holes or style of potting affording more or less drainage? Is this mix the same as the plant is presently potted in or is it heavier? Do I have too much room in the new pot either around the plant or in the bottom of the pot? Did I remove all damaged, fading, undersized, or baby leaves before repotting? These plants can be saved if you watch all newly repotted plants. At the first sign of distress - wilted look - outer leaves beginning to curl under - or plant not starting to grow on quickly, remove from pot and check for damaged or dark roots. Remove all dead and dying roots, check stem, cut away all dead or rotted parts, leave only viable healthy looking tissue and repot into a small pot in sterile mix (perlite and vermiculite). A plastic cover helps aid the growth of roots if most or all of the roots were removed during this procedure When new growth is evident, repot in regular soil in same size pot. Only when the plant has reached the point of being three times (one third of plant on one side, one third across pot, one third on other side) the size of the pot will it be safe to pot on. Don't ever rush to increase the size of the pot. This is a big temptation when you have new plants and want mature plants in full bloom. Patience is the key word with African violets.

QUESTION: *I pot with a small layer of perlite on the bottom of each pot. I feel that this promotes drainage. My friend disagrees with me and thinks this is a waste of perlite. Her reasoning is, if the potting medium is correct this layer is not needed.*

ANSWER: I use "Texas Style" which is based on the use of a good layer of perlite in the bottom of the pot as a regular potting regime. This is based on the growing conditions where the plants occur naturally. They are found in limestone rock depressions (a very porous substance) growing in the humus debris that collect over time. I'm not sure why your friend is saving the soil mix as opposed to perlite, as I find perlite much less expensive and use more than a small layer in each of my pots. Perhaps she is unaware there is a natural gas exchange taking place in the spacy environment of the perlite and if you were to slip your plant out of the pot she would see the best root growth (nice vigorous white roots) covering the perlite. If using soil alone is done to save one step in the potting procedure and she is able to grow outstanding plants with this method she is not wrong, but if your preference is to use the perlite, ignore comments that are not applicable to your growing style.

QUESTION: *The roots of one of my violets have begun to grow from the holes in the bottom of the pot. I "mold potted" just three months ago. Should I repot again so soon? This plant is vigorous and full of bloom. (Note, "mold potting" is using a pot of the same size the plant is in to make a mold in the new pot. Add the mix around the old size pot pressing slightly so it will hold it's shape then drop the plant into the formed depression.)*

ANSWER: What are your goals for this plant? There is no doubt this plant is growing well and is producing what you want in an African violet, a vigorous blooming plant. Repotting now would entail removal of all the bloom and

unless you are planning to show at a particular time I would want to enjoy the plant for a few weeks. If you do have a show date and are bringing it along to be a show winner, it is certainly telling you it's ready to be repotted.

QUESTION: *I've noticed in various growers catalogues an absence of "Coral" colored minis. Is this because none have been developed as yet, or simply a difference in adjectives?*

ANSWER: Thinking back over what I had seen at shows and for sale at the conventions I couldn't recall a single coral mini. With help from our MVL Chairman, Lynn Lombard, who did an actual search of the African violet computer program, "First Class," with a program called "Lookfor", she was unable to find any coral minis. Personally I'm very fond of corals and have only found a few for my collection, but all are standards and border on being large standards which would not be useful in working toward a small coral plant.

QUESTION: *I planted a "mother" leaf and to my surprise, the babies grew up under the leaf rather than in front of it. Is there something wrong with them?*

ANSWER: No, the babies just grew where they could. The babies grow all the way around the "callous" of the leaf. This is the area on the base of the leaf that swells and is like a ridge. For this reason many people cut the leaf at a slant with the largest area facing up in front of the leaf. Then when the babies start to grow, they are in front of the leaf and have a better chance at good light. You can also lean the leaf so all of the base is in a better position for the babies to grow well.

QUESTION: *Is it good to use a blossom booster? If so, how often?*

ANSWER: This is a specialized fertilizer to promote bloom and most growers use it to bring their plants to best and most bloom, by applying it at eight and seven weeks prior to show. I have also heard of people using it for a particular group of plants but do not have the particulars of the results. Personally I only use it to get outstanding blooms for a show. This is not a balanced fertilizer and would only use it as a supplement.

QUESTION: *My once lovely trailer has a couple of long, unsightly necks without a single leaf to be seen! What can I do?*

ANSWER: If you want to play with the plant and give it some time, you can repot to new soil with plenty of top area in a shallow pot and try the Japanese system for trailers. It has been described in detail in past issues of the AVM. Most growers will start new plants with the tip cuttings and since they do grow fairly quickly you should have several of your favorite trailer in no time, with enough to share with friends.

QUESTION: *My local club would not let me enter a plant in the show because I didn't know the name of the plant. I bought it at the super market, and have raised it to be a lovely specimen covered with flowers. I was so disappointed. There was no label and I had no way of knowing the name. My area has very few sources for African violets. What could I have done to find out the name of this lovely plant?*

ANSWER: It's a shame that you were not able to show your plant, but one reason many hobbyists are very careful to buy only named varieties is so they can show them. The rule is: it must be a named variety, listed in the MVL or appearing on a hybridizers list in order to be entered in a show. Did you make a search of the MVL and descriptions in growers catalogues? You have had great pleasure from the plant already and I'm sure you can enjoy it for many years to come. It's even possible that you might attend a show or convention and spot the plant and learn its name, however many of the plants for sale in markets and nurseries are not named.

QUESTION: *Why don't more people use kitty flea collars to rid their plants of thrips and other pests? I've read a couple of references to them in the AVM, but rarely hear folks mention them. I know from experience that they work wonderfully!*

ANSWER: Perhaps they aren't adventurous or just haven't had a chance to try this method of pest control. Thank you very much for sharing your experience.

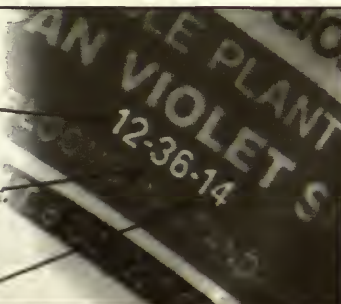
Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

What do the NPK numbers mean...

First number represents the percentage of nitrogen (N). It is generally stated that nitrogen promotes leaf growth.

Middle number represents the percentage of phosphorus (P) in the fertilizer. Phosphorus promotes flowering.

Third number represents the percentage of potassium (K) which promotes root growth.



Reprinted from
"An Introduction to
Gesneriads - African Violets
and their Relatives"

by John Beaulieu

ORIGINALITY IN SHOW SCHEDULES

by Ralph Breden • Rodondo Beach, CA

A significant amount of joy in my judging African violet shows is derived from the affiliate show schedules, particularly in the design division. It is quite interesting to see the various interpretations of given class titles and descriptions.

Having reviewed schedules from affiliates, country wide, as library committee chairman, I found a great diversion of schedule ideas - some appeared to use the sample schedule form found in the Handbook; others displayed unique presentations.

The theme of the show usually dictates the degree of originality that can be exhibited. In choosing a theme try to visualize what can be done effectively in the design division. If the subject is broad enough the classes in the horticultural division may also have suggestive titles.

An example of this was achieved in one of our local affiliates show schedule. The theme of the show was Violet Fashions. The collection classes were titled "Three Piece Ensemble". "Double Breasted Suit - Solid" identified standard solid color foliage, semi double/double blossoms. The same identifier for variegates used the word "Tweed" instead of "Solid". "Mini skirt" and "Midi Skirt" took care of the miniatures and semiminiatures.

The Specimen Plants section including species, seedlings

and unusual container received the title of "Casual Wear". The Other Gesneriad section was distinguished as "Unmentionables".

The design division section bore titles - "Designer Boots" "Military Dress" and "Distinctive Styles".

The theme of one show that I had the privilege of helping to judge was Violets Invade the Mall. This theme was carried out by such section/class titles as "Foods": "The Candy Shop", "Health Foods", "Pretzel Shop", "Snack Shop" and "Soup Kitchen"; "Service Stores": "Shoe Repair", "Optometrist"; "Specialty Stores": "Sporting Goods", "The Pet Shop" and "Flower Shop".

Another theme I enjoyed was Yellow Brick Road.

The Design division included class titles of "Along the Brick Road", "The Emerald City", "Dorothy's Friends" and "Cyclone".

The Dearly Beloved theme of a

show I assisted in judging, used these Design section titles: "How Do I Love Thee, Let Me Count The Ways", and "Photographic Memories". Class titles included: "The Brides Bouquet", "A Toast", "With This Ring", "Something Old, Something New", "A Garden Wedding", and "Honeymoon Fantasies".

(continued on bottom of next page)

In Memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.



L.T. and Yvonne attended their first African Violet Convention in Austin, TX. They continued to attend the yearly conventions for the next 22 years with exception of the Sacramento Convention. At first their joy was to meet all the important people of AVSA - Anne Tinari, Mary Boland, Ann Richardson, Frances Young, Gladys Hudnull, and many, many others. However, besides all the "important ones", L.T. also loved to see the many people who made AVSA what it is. Everyone always waited for his big "hello" hug.

On March 20, 1975, L.T. became a charter member of his local violet club - Atchafalaya Violet Society. Through the years he held almost every office in the club. Talking about violets was his pleasure, as was giving workshops to other violet clubs, garden clubs, Knights of Columbus, and gesneriad societies. Spreading the word made him happy. In order to help get new judges, L.T. taught judging schools in several states.

A member of Dixie AVS, he was also a charter member of the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and growers and served as charter secretary for two consecutive terms.

In appreciation for his service as President of AVSA, L.T. was presented the Honorary Life Membership Award. Since becoming a member in 1973, L.T. served AVSA in many ways. He had been a teacher since 1983, and has also served as a Director, Chairman of the Library Committee, as was a member of the Executive Committee since 1989 and finally became President of AVSA in 1995.

(continued from page 20)

In one of our affiliate shows we selected the theme Violets in Concert. Our design division, emphasizing the musical theme, utilized class title "Grand Canyon Suite" for terrarium class and "Pastoral Symphony" for dish garden. The Interpretive Flower Arrangement section was titled "Impromptu", with respective class titles, "Waltz of the Flowers", "Rhapsody in Blue", "Minute Waltz" and "The Age of Aquarius".

One of our South Coast African Violet Society's most discussed theme was Violet Advertisements. The schedule cover adapted well known advertisement maxims to African violets: "I'd Walk a Mile for a Violet", "Things go Better with Violets", "Violets Are Our Most Important Product", "Good to the Last Violet".

These are a few that were utilized. Our design schedule was enhanced with the "Burma Shave Road Sign Motif".

The Interpretive Plant Arrangement class exhibitor was guided by:

Interpretive Arrangement,
Show your skill
Must have the plant
To fill the bill
AFRICAN VIOLET

Although violets were a large part of his life, L.T. gave his time and talents to his community. He worked for years for the schools his five children attended. It may have been president of the Parents Club, driving bands to ball games or running concession stands during football games. The standing joke was he attended every game his sons played in, but never saw a play.

Two of L.T.'s pet projects were the Public Library and the Community Concert Association in Morgan City. Being a member of the Library Board for 30 years, he supported efforts to increase the number of library users and the size of the collection and range of services. As a charter member of the Community Concert board he saw the membership grow through the years and was able to help bring to the community many talented artists.

A major part of L.T.'s life was his church and his family. Through the years he served Sacred Heart Catholic Church in a variety of capacities. He was very proud of his five children, Pauline Fulda, Dorothy Ulrich, Tommy Ozio, Paul Ozio, and Teresa Dilllenkoffer. He enjoyed seeing his family grow to include five lovely granddaughters and five fine grandsons.

Yvonne said L.T. was remembered by his many friends around the country, and she was most grateful for the many wishes of sympathy and support. These gave her much comfort.

Another guide line read:

Water, water
In some glass
Flowers swimming
In this class
AFRICAN VIOLETS

You guessed it, The Under Water Flower Arrangement!

One of the more challenging classes in a Design Division appeared in the National Show schedule for the Convention in Los Angeles, 1965.

The class titled "Improvisation" in the Flower Arrangement section called for each exhibitor to create a design from an identical kit provided by host. The kit included the container, fresh cut material and African violet blossoms. Results were exciting.

Good insurance for innovative ideas in constructing your designs is to write the design schedule. Give the prospective exhibitors an added challenge and the judges added pleasure.

At the Lone Star



*First Lady, Paula, and
AVSA President Bill Foster*



Gerri Goins



Sandy Sanders & Sundown Pittman



Pat Hancock



*New Board Members Helen Blanton &
Georgette Jolivette*



Barbara Elkin & Douglas Gregory



*Paul Sorano with plaque honoring
his grandfather, Lyndon Lyon,
AVSA Hall of Fame Member*



Joan Halford, Gary Gordon, Ruth Warren



Margery Clive & Carolyn Shinn



Pat Sutton & Friend



Dorothy Townsend & Jenny Daugereau



*Edna Rourke, Charles Wells, Jackie Jones and
Lynn Lombard demonstrate being "affiliate fit"*

Violet Round-up



Doris Weaver



Ruth Goeke, Judith Carter, Jane Rexilius



Roxanne



*Bill Edwards, Moleen Kanewischer, Bebe Edwards,
Fred Packer, Jenny Daugereau,
Paul Sorano, Winston and Laurel Goretsky*



Judy & John Carter



Dave Harris



Don Geiss



Fred Packer



Jack Wilson & Al Armstrong



*Frito Bandito
aka
Bev Promersberger*



Jeanne Steiger & Elizabeth Glazebrook



Bill Paauwe & Shirley Sanders



Olive Ma Robinson



WICK WATERING

Probably more African violets die from over watering than from any other cause. Violets should be watered when the potting mix dries out rather than on a regular schedule. One method used by many growers to ensure proper watering is "wicking" the plant.

Water has a natural tendency to move from the area of greatest to that of lesser concentration. By providing a highway, water moves easily from its source to the roots of the plant.

This method offers several advantages: The plant takes up water as it needs it, you reduce the risk of over watering, and you may also add fertilizer directly to the water. The plant will absorb nutrients from the fertilizer in the same manner. The "wick" method saves the grower time. Depending upon the size of your water reservoirs, you may leave your plants for a prolonged period of time knowing that while you are absent your plants can "water" themselves.

Select a good, porous soilless potting mix. One to two-parts sphagnum peat moss to one-part perlite and one-part vermiculite with enough dolomite lime (to maintain the acidity of the mix between pH 6.0 and 7.0) is a good basic recipe. Many commercial mixes developed specifically for African violets fulfill this criteria and achieve desirable growing results.

Slightly moisten the mix and pasteurize the soil. Place it in a covered container and bake it at 120 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes.

Next choose a wick from any type of synthetic cord. Selection of the correct size wick is dependent upon the size of the plant. Miniature violets, for example, may only need a small, one-ply wick. A standard size violet, on the other hand, in a 3-3 1/2" diameter pot may need a 3-ply wick.

Cut a piece of wick 4-5" long. Soak it in warm water with one drop of dish washing liquid. You may also choose to add a few drops of commercial algacide. The growth of algae on the wick, the potting mix, water in reservoir, pot or reservoir container can hinder the movement of water from the container to the root system of the plant.

When the wick is thoroughly wet, select a pot that is approximately 1/3 the diameter of your plant. A 10" diameter plant, for example, should be potted in a 3 - 3 1/2" diameter pot. African violets grow best when the root system is "snug" in a pot, but not tightly compacted. Potting mix should always be loosely added around the root ball to create adequate air in the pot.

Take the wet wick and bring it up through one hole and across the bottom of the pot. Many growers then find it advantageous to add a shallow lay of perlite on top of the wick. This is believed to stimulate the "downward," rather than "sideways," growth of the roots.

You may make a water reservoir from any clean plastic refrigerator container, such as a margarine container. Cut two holes opposite one another in the lid. One is for the wick, and the other is for air. The pressure of the air pushing on the surface of the water in the reservoir assists in the "transportation" process.

Fill the container with room temperature water with a weak fertilizer solution. Generally 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer dissolved in 1 gallon of water is adequate. There are many good fertilizers made specifically for African violets. Read the contents label. You will want to choose a fertilizer with a low to no nitrate urea content. This compound, as it builds up in the potting mix, creates hard salts which effect the pH of the potting mix. Growth may become stunted. The plant may not bloom well. The foliage may also brown around the edges.

Place the free end of the wick through one of the holes in the lid of the container. Be sure that the wick is always submerged in water. If the wick dries out, it will no longer transport water.

Get yourself on a regular schedule for "housekeeping". Keep the area around your plant collection clean. Check the reservoirs periodically for the build up of potting mix debris, pest infestations or algae. Decaying blossoms and debris attract insect infestations. Early detection of a potential problem may save you from having to spray with a pesticide later. You might choose, for example, to keep a few extra, clean reservoirs on hand so that you can easily change out a dirty one. Repot on a timely schedule. Miniature African violets may need to be repotted more frequently.

Checking your plants on a regular schedule also alerts you to any problems with fertilization. If you notice hard, brittle foliage or brown edges, reduce the amount of fertilizer you are using. If your plants have light colored foliage and little to no bloom, then increase the amount of fertilizer.

Each growing environment is different. As you work with your plants, you will become the "best authority" regarding your collection. When trying a new idea, first experiment with one or two plants to see if the method works well for you.

The above information is taken from several articles written by growers published in AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterWell
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive manual for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Annual Library Message



Jackie Jones
Library Chairman
607 14th Ave
Durant, IA 52747

We have the good and the unpleasant to report this year. A new design program is now available to rent: "Designing for Show". We hope this will be both entertaining and informative. It does not have a cassette so you will be able to spend as much time assessing the designs as your members wish.

On the unpleasant side, there will not be a new introductions program this year. Our hybridizers are growers, not necessarily photographers, so many find it not easy to

submit slides. We will accept not receiving pictures - just don't halt that HYBRIDIZING.

Available now is "Houston Beauties - 1999" This program of the Houston convention show should be on your "to order" list.

This completes my second term as Library Chairman and I am turning over the duties. It has been a pleasant task and I look forward to helping out at future conventions without the responsibilities.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request (1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) Date to be shown. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

SLIDE PROGRAMS - VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Return programs to:
AVSA OFFICE
2375 NORTH STREET
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00 and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.

- 183L** "VIOLETS AT THE BEACH" (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 190L** "WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998" (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.
- 193L** "HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999" (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.

SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L** "GEMS OF COLUMBUS" (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L** "LANCASTER LOVELIES" (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L** "DENVER DEBUTANTS" (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L** "WE MET IN ST. LOUIS" (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L** "FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING" (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L** "NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE" (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 191L** "NEW CULTIVARS - 1998" (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.

SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 140L** "MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS" (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 147L** "THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT" (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 150L** "THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS" (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L** "VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS" (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple-crowned plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L** "THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES" (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L** "POINTERS IN JUDGING" (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L** "TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO" (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".
- 194L** "DESIGNING FOR SHOW" (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L** "MEET THE FAMILY" (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".

- 178L** "UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN" (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L** "AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS" (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L** "VIOLET TROUBLES" (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L** 30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997 Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)

VIDEO TAPES

- 173L** "AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN" Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L** "HUNGRY ATHLETES" - 1997 Presentation at Atlanta convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.
- 185L** "GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS" (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- 186L** "TEACHING THE TRICKS" (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- 188L** "RAGS TO RICHES" - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".
- 189L** "PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES" - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.

PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L** JUST FOR FUN PACKET: "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L** NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET: Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L** PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET: Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L** SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET: Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L** YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET: This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- 192L** INSTALLATION PACKET: A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

Showcase

Rob's Whippoorwill

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Semiminiature



Mary Craig

Exhibited by: Marilyn Hall

Hybridized by: R. Nadeau

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Large





Revenge

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Martha Turner

Hybridized by: K. Stork

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky
Standard



Lela Marie

Best Variegated Standard from
2nd Best AVSA Collection

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Roy Hall

Hybridized by: I. Lineberg
Standard



Committees of the African Violet Society of America Part II

Janet T. Riemer, *AVSA Archivist*

Large, non-profit organizations such as the African Violet Society of America are often served by many volunteers serving on committees. AVSA has two types of committees: standing committees which were enumerated in an article in the July issue of the African Violet Magazine, and special committees.

Special committees are created either for a limited time period or for a very specific purpose. Each chairman is appointed by the president and may be appointed by a succeeding president or replaced by a new appointee. Each chairman has the right to select the members of his/her committee with the guidance and approval of the president.

Special Committees
(in alphabetical order)

Annual Index Committee - The responsibility of this committee is to compile an index of each year's issues of the African Violet Magazine. Included in the index are authors, a combination of titles and subjects, and titles of color pictures. The index for a given year usually appears in the following January issue.

Best Varieties List and Honor Roll Committee - Each AVSA member and each member of an affiliate has the privilege and the responsibility of submitting a list of 25 favorite violets annually. This committee collates all these lists into one, which is then published in the African Violet Magazine. Those varieties appearing on the published list for three consecutive years are placed on an Honor Roll.

Booster Fund Committee - This committee receives and acknowledges donations which are deposited into the general treasury to help defray the Society's operating expenses. Committee members also assist in the sale and/or raffle of donated items that are held at convention.

Boyce Edens Research Fund Committee - Individual and affiliate club donations to this fund, as well as a portion of each commercial member's dues, are used to support academic research. Acknowledgement of all donations is

done by this committee. Grants to conduct research are solicited and reviewed by the Research Committee (a standing committee) and approved by the Board of Directors.

Building Maintenance Fund Committee - Formerly the Building Fund Committee, this fund was begun to raise money for the purchase of a site for the Society's business office. Since the acquisition of a building in Beaumont, Texas, donations to the fund are used to provide necessary maintenance. The committee acknowledges all donations.

Bylaws Committee - Preparation of amendments or revisions to the Bylaws of the Society is the responsibility of this committee. Such proposals for change are presented to the Board of Directors for their approval, published in the African Violet Magazine, and voted upon by the membership at convention.

Convention Manual Committee - This committee is responsible for a manual which explains the procedures which should be followed to successfully host a national convention. The convention director plays a major role on this committee which revises the manual periodically. The manual is a means of transmitting experience from one hosting group to another.

Guide for Affiliate Presidents & AVSA Representatives Committee - The guide is a booklet available from the AVSA office for use by affiliates. The committee revises the booklet periodically, when directed to do so by the Board of Directors.

Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges Committee - This publication by the Society is the official manual for all AVSA affiliate and convention shows. The committee revises it as needed with guidance from the Shows and Judges Chairman. New editions are published when revisions become extensive.

Internet Content Committee - The creation of a website on the Internet created a need for a committee to coordinate

and implement the functions associated with the maintenance of the site. The committee members promote the use of the website as a tool for AVSA affiliates and advertisers.

Open Forum Committee - The open forum was established to provide the AVSA membership with a means of presenting information, asking questions and exchanging ideas with the officers, directors, and committee chairmen at convention. It is held at a scheduled time and is hosted by the chairman of the committee.

Policies & Procedures Committee - The Policies & Procedures book is a manual that guides officers, directors, and committee chairmen in operating the Society. Actions taken by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee that change the way the Society functions are incorporated in the book by this committee, chaired by the Secretary. Updating is done at least once a year.

Resolutions Committee - This committee is responsible for the preparation of courtesy resolutions thanking the convention hosts, to be read into the minutes of the annual meeting.

Salary Committee - Composed of the vice presidents, the treasurer, and the finance chairman, this committee reviews staff salaries and presents suggestions for changes to the Board of Directors.

Tally Time Committee - Tally Time is an annual list of show winners of AVSA Collection Awards, Best in Show, and other top winners. These awards, from all affiliated clubs, are reported to this committee which collates the information and presents the results in an article in the March issue of the AVM.

Technology Committee - The purpose of this new committee is to advise the Board of Directors on the application of computing technologies used by the office staff to support the goals of the Society. This includes reviewing the inventory of computer hardware and regulating its maintenance, reviewing license agreements for software, and evaluating and recommending software upgrades when appropriate.

Vintage Violets Committee - This committee is charged with the preservation and restoration of older African violet varieties. Attempts are made to keep these varieties available to members by publicizing both wishes and availability in the African Violet Magazine.

Ways & Means Committee - This committee is responsible for researching and securing African violet related items for sale at convention and through the AVSA office. Profits realized are deposited in the general treasury for use in meeting the Society's operating costs.

Attention Commercial Members:

The AVSA Board of Directors has approved a change in the rules for accepting Gift Certificates as awards for the convention shows. Starting with the 2000 Omaha Convention, I would most pleased to accept any Gift Certificate that you would like to send as an award. Please send the certificate and a current catalogue or list to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski, *AVSA Awards Chairman*
1416 N. W. A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • golubski@kc.net

Attention AVSA Members: Change In Awards Procedures

Beginning with the 2001 Chicago Convention, if you wish to donate an award for a specific variety, the deadline for sending them to the Awards Chairman will be July 1, 2000. This rule will be in effect for all future conventions. The reason for this change is to allow more persons the opportunity to exhibit the specific variety. The specified varieties will appear in the September/October magazines. Too often, a variety appears in the January magazine and the convention is in April or May. That does not allow enough time to purchase and grow a show plant. We want to give everyone an even opportunity to win. This will not effect the 2000 Convention in Omaha. If you should have any questions or comments, please write, phone or e-mail me.

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski, *AVSA Awards Chairman*
1416 N. W. A Street • Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. • golubski@kc.net

Showcase

Rob's Hand Puppet

Second Best New Cultivar

1999 National Show

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

R. Robinson

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

Semiminiature



Orchard's Bumble Magnet

Best Miniature

Third Best in Show

1999 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Pat Richards***

*Hybridized by: **R. Wilson***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***





Emergency

New Introduction

1999 National Show

*Hybridized & Exhibited by: **K. Stork***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**
Standard*



Sinningia pusilla

Best in Class

Third Best Gesneriad

1999 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Dale Martens***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton

622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from February 1, 1999 - March 31, 1999

Albuquerque African Violet Club,
Albuquerque, NM \$25.00
Joyce Stenger, Houston, TX 20.00
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.
Alpha African Violet Society, Mesquite, TX. . . 25.00
in memory of Mrs. Eva Mae White
Judith Smith, Laverock, PA 7.00
Elizabeth Roth, Wallingford, PA 2.00
AVS of Minnesota, Circle Pines, MN. 15.00
in memory of Ruth Ellis
Claudette Schaaf, Arvada, CO 5.00
Shirley Davis, Fort Meyers Beach, FL 10.00
African Violet Club of Morris County,
Randolph, NJ 30.00
in memory of Mrs. Angela Rosenbaum
Pamela Woods, Gardena, CA 5.00
Colin Dimon, Vestal, NY 10.00
Frances Cooper, Springfield, PA 2.00
Jeffery Walsh, Norcross, GA 10.00
Mrs. Faye Wieditz, Wichita, KS 10.00

Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY \$3.00
Mrs. William Moeller, Electra, TX. 10.00
Mrs. Ruby Cox, Bethany, MO 10.00
Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX 20.00
Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY 7.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI 10.00
Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK 2.00
Pat Dorsey, San Diego, CA 2.00
Susan Daigle, Oakland, ME 5.00
Marie Gullikson, Onalaska, WI 5.00
Ruby Parker, Shreveport, LA 10.00
Reginald Arrington, West Friendship, MD ... 10.00
Doris Weaver, Stockton, CA 10.00
Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council . 20.00
Lynda Vaillancourt, Durango, CO 10.00
Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00
Amethyst AVC, St. Louis, MO 10.00
Peggy Eaton, Brighton, MA 12.00
Marcella Wright, Niceville, FL 2.00
Michelle Myers, Floyds Knobs, IN 7.00

Jeanne Maier, Lynbrook, NY \$2.00
Milwaukee AVS, Cudahy, WI 15.00
Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN 2.00
Ralph Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA 12.00
Ruth Brassell, Lubbock, TX. 5.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00
Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA 3.00
Lila Diamond, New York, NY 2.00
Lucille Remsburg, Taneytown, MD 10.00
Catherine Wai, Hong Kong 10.00
Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 10.00
Wong Wai Sing, Hong Kong 20.00
Dorothy Pultz, Mellenville, NY 2.00
Larry Watkins, McLean, VA 5.00
Roseline Fujimori, Honolulu, HI. 10.00
Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
Ramona Like, Morrow, GA 5.00
Bruce Parker, Fairfax, VA 3.00

TOTAL \$479.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS 1 FEBRUARY TO 31 MARCH

Martha Middleton, Eatonton, GA. \$10.00
Mrs. D. K. Yeager, Helena, MT 10.00
Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI 5.00
Mrs. Albert W. Koch, Clayton, MO. 5.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Eatontown, NJ 10.00
Brenda Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS 10.00
Joe & Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL. 10.00
Claudette Schaaf, Arvada, CO 5.00
Marie T. Gail, Tucson, AZ 5.00
AVS of Minnesota 15.00
Phoebe Hahn, Berkeley Heights, NJ. 10.00
Lake Area Violet Growers, St. Paul, MM ... 25.00
Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY 2.00
Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada. 5.00
Smith's Country Cottage AV's,
Spencerport, NY 25.00
Evelyn Boyer, Austin, TX 20.00
Jeffery Walsh, Norcross, GA 10.00
The AVS of Denver, Chapter 1. 10.00
Harold Swirsky, Glencoe, IL 25.00
Agnes Mc Laughlin, Coralville, IA. 5.00
Kathleen Stottle, Pittsfield, MA 7.00
Jill Fischer, Berkeley Heights, NJ 2.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Oshkosh, WI. 10.00
Becky Bulmer, Brampton, Canada 50
Karen Taillie, Everett, WA 12.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council,
St. Louis, MO 15.00

Colin R. Dimon, Vestal, NY \$10.00
Atchafalaya Violet Society, ... 366.28
Morgan City, LA
Balance of Treasury - Club Disbanded
Howard Lamb, Sun City, AZ 7.00
Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO 10.00
Mary Lester, Aurora, CO 12.00
Carole Domnitz, Bellmore, NY 5.00
Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL 2.00
Richard Jarrett, Rochester, PA 10.00
Eleanor Van Sant, Sun City, AZ 7.00
Milwaukee AVS, Milwaukee, WI 15.00
Joyce Stenger, Houston, TX 20.00
In fond memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.
Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN 10.00
AV Council of Florida 50.00
Meredith Hall, Houston, TX 25.00
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Nabers, Sr.
Parents of John Nabers
Anita Rudolph, New Hyde Park, NY 7.00
Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA 3.00
Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL 7.00
Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD 10.00
Joseph Lebediker, Syracuse, NY 2.00
AVS Philadelphia, PA 15.00
*In lieu of travel expenses - Carol Callaghan,
Libby Behnke & Diane Abramson -
Delaware AVS*

Romona Like, Morrow, GA \$5.00
Bruce Parker, Fairfax, VA 2.00
Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI 10.00
AVS Philadelphia, PA 5.00
*In lieu of travel expenses -
Barbara Jones, Springfield, PA AVS*
Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI 20.00
Larry Watkins, Mc Lean, VA 5.00
AVS of Dayton, OH 20.00
Wilma McCain, Mulberry, AR 7.00
Amy Trept, Arlington, TX 5.00
Albert Maddux, Milton, FL 5.00
Judith Hess, Greendale, WI 2.00
Charles & Barbara Werness,
Coon Rapids, MN 10.00
Nancy McTiernan, Gaithersburg, MD 12.00
Mary Parker, Sandy, OR 2.00
Lenore-Jackson-DeVine, Richardson, TX ... 5.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY 4.00
Clark Barnes, Granby, CT 12.00
Jeanelle Roberts, Miami, FL 2.00
C.V. Heerden, Gardenia Park, South Africa ... 5.00
AVS Philadelphia, PA 25.00
Ronald H. Whitchurch, Clearwater, FL ... 100.00
In loving memory of Julianne Canfield

TOTAL \$1,124.78



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger
17415 Charter Pines Drive
Monument, CO 80132
<clubs@avsa.org>

Do you enjoy your violets? Are you looking for someone with whom you can share your hobby? Are you looking for ways to learn more about growing? Are you looking for people to share and trade new and different varieties?

If you are not a member of a local club to share your hobby, let me tell you how to find one. Do you have access to the internet? If so, go to the affiliate web site <avsa.org/affiliates> and check out the list of clubs in your region. Most of the affiliates have information listed about their meetings and a person to contact for additional questions. If you do not have access to the internet, most libraries have the access available for you. If there is not enough information to help you, please e-mail me at <clubs@avsa.org>. We will be glad to help you find the club nearest you.

If you don't have internet access, maybe you have a

copy of the September 1998 issue of The African Violet Magazine. The center insert of the magazine has a listing of all the clubs currently registered with AVSA. The March issue of the magazine lists updates and this article has some new listings.

If there is not a club or grower near you, perhaps you would be interested in starting a club. We can help you do that, too. We have a packet of helpful information assembled to help you no matter whether you are a new grower or an experienced grower. Maybe someone else in your area has contacted us regarding starting a club in your area. We can introduce you to each other and you can work together.

New clubs are organizing in the Flint, MI, Midland, TX and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada areas. If you live in or near any of these areas, we hope you will give the contacts listed below a call and be a part of their beginning.

Flint, Michigan
Contact: Wilson Cronk
4392 Depot Drive
Swartz Creek, MI 48473 USA
810-635-8576
E-mail: <wcronk@ivs2.oom>

Midland, Texas
Contact: Marge Savage
2804 Stutz Drive
Midland, TX 79705
915-699-4296
E-mail: <savagetom@juno.com>

Montgomery County Violet Society
Second Saturday each month
Germantown Library
Germantown, MD
Contact: Helen Hansen
301-572-4721
E-mail: <Hwhanse@ibm.net>

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
Contact: Wendy Ross
3 Edmund Street
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 2E9
Canada
905-641-178
E-mail: <wendy.ross@sympatico.ca>

Meetings: subject to change
Fourth Tuesday each month
Banker's Room, Centennial Library
St. Catharines, Ontario

Congratulations and welcome to
these new affiliates:

Blacksburg AVS
President: K C. Arceneaux
707 Ascot Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060-4032

Portlandia Violet Club
President: Blanche Bunket
18005 SE Mill Court
Portland, OR 97233-5170



Showcase

Gloxinia 'Chic'

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Dale Martens

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'

Best in Class

2nd Best Gesneriad

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky





"Hermann Park"

Best in Class - Bottle Garden

Exhibited by: Olive Ma Robinson

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



"Missions Along The Trail"

Best in Class - Dish Garden

Exhibited by: Fran Russom

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



A Closer Look



David Buttram
P.O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64051

DAVE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

On a beautiful spring afternoon I drove to Springfield, Missouri, to visit one of AVSA's newest commercial members, David Harris of Dave's African Violets.

David met me in the driveway at the rear of his house and showed me into his growing room, a converted garage. We then passed through a breezeway into the dining room. Looking around me as I took a seat, I could see plant stands in every room of the house. There was even a plant stand next to the bed in David's bedroom.

The African violets and gesneriads are relatively new to the Harris household. Before the African violets David raised and showed Persian cats. Then he raised and sold tropical fish, specializing in catfish and angels, growing between three thousand and five thousand of each variety a year.

By 1990 he had ceased raising cats and tropical fish and began to grow African violets. This was not David's first experience with houseplants as he used to grow them as a boy in tiny Vanzant, in south-central Missouri.

David first grew some Optimara varieties as well as some unnamed varieties from local stores. His first exposure to true show plants was at a Missouri Valley African Violet Council show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Especially striking to David was Kent Stork's 'Windy Day' and Raymond Russell's 'Yesterday's Love.'

By 1995 David was exhibiting plants and winning ribbons. In addition to showing at AVSA national conventions, David has shown and sold at Dixie African



David has found that plants this size sell especially well at garage sales, flea markets and local grocery stores.

Violet Society's conventions. He also likes to show and sell at the Ozark Empire Fair held in late July in Springfield. This



All of David's plants do very well with the automated watering system.

is a regional fair attended by hundreds of thousands of people from across Missouri, Arkansas and even Oklahoma and Kansas.

"When I went commercial on June 21, 1998, my E-mail lit up. I went into ways of timesaving because this is the '90s. Years ago it was not fast paced. Now days, people don't seem to have time. Because I'm single, I have to keep a time for working and then find ways to save time. One of the ways is the irrigation system I designed."

David is proud of the system he uses to water his plants. Inspired by a system he saw in a pet store, David's laborsaving system was described in detail in the March-April 1999 AVM.

Another time saver for David is his labeling system. At the beginning of the growing season, he, or his sister, write plant names on plastic labels, which are then kept in alphabetical order in a file until needed. Other growers would prefer to label plants as they are potted but David finds his method to be quicker and more efficient for him.

Like any grower, David has his favorites. 'Pink Crystal' and 'Persian Prince' from Lyon Greenhouses, along with 'Sassy Shirley' by Hortense Pittman and Travis' 'Peach Puff' and 'Georgia Lover' are at the top of David's list of favorites.

David publishes a beautiful catalog of available varieties. It is computer generated although he denies that he is a computer expert. "I am just lucky how I punch the keys on it," he stated. Indeed, the list and growing brochures are very well done with full color pictures using Microsoft Publisher 97.

Although he doesn't advertise yet, David credits his growing mail-order business to word of mouth of satisfied customers. "I may never advertise because when I advertise locally I bring people in from Michigan, Topeka, Kansas, and Claremore, Oklahoma. I have regular customers from Mountain Home, Arkansas, and someone recently came up from Little Rock."

David credits his increasing reputation to selling a "good product" and "growing my plants just a little

bigger than what I could sell by mail," and "they like talking to me, I guess," he said in a strong Ozark accent.

A constant-feed method of fertilizing is used by David, with a rotation of Peters 12-36-14, Volkmann's 20-20-20 and Peters 5-50-16. It is David's belief that plants like a variety in their diet just as people do.

David incorporates Marathon into his growing medium as well as occasionally spraying for mites. He uses a commercially prepared potting mix to which he adds perlite, vermiculite and charcoal.

The forty-two-year-old bachelor said, "Plants have brought a lot of enjoyment to me over the years. I can't get out to hunt or do a lot of other things. But I have made a lot of friendships across the United States because of this little plant."

David was referring to a partially crippled leg from an injury more than twenty years ago. His problem has given him empathy toward those customers who have trouble with stairs.

"I designed the floor in my plant room to allow people in wheelchairs or with walkers to come see my violets. I know how hard it is to get up a lot of steps." Because of a ramp built for David, his plant room is accessible to almost anyone, and, after all, he adds, "Just looking at those blooms can bring a little smile to your face."

Well said, David, well said.

In a few days, Beth and I will travel to the east coast on business. We plan to visit and interview some AVSA commercial members there and hopefully your favorite will be among them. Watch for my next column.



David adjusts one of the watering tubes to a tray of plants.



Tiger

*Grown by: **Geneva Holmes***

*Hybridized by: **I. Fredette***

Large

A Tiger In My Plant Room

by Geneva I. Holmes
Westminster, Colorado

The 'Tiger' in my plant room is friendly, she does not roar or threaten to attack. She does make a statement with her appearance and is outstanding at times. My 'Tiger' is an African violet that I have grown for twenty years.

In 1979 I attended my first AVSA Convention at the Regency Hotel in Denver, CO. Being a new member of a violet club, it was exciting seeing the many large plants on display. At that time the few plants I was growing were much smaller than most of the other exhibits. My entries were just helping to fill space. Sometimes, that is still the case on the day of the show.

Growing plants has been important in my life since childhood. It started with vegetables and a few flowers on our farm. In my adult life I have grown nearly every kind of outdoor plant and many houseplants indoors. When someone suggested it would be beneficial to start a new African violet club, it sounded like a good idea. Five National Council of State Garden Club judges started Ultra Violet Club in 1976. I was one of the five judges and Emma Lahr was the driving force behind this group.

At the 1979 Convention a man from Texas had a 'Tiger' plant that everyone admired. I do not remember his name but I think he was a commercial. Many people wanted to buy a leaf and I was in that line. He nearly striped his plant to nothing as we each purchased a leaf of this beautiful variegated plant. The price of the leaf was either \$1.25 or \$1.50. It seemed like a lot for a leaf but I wanted that plant! The leaf was carefully planted in starter mix and then the waiting began. Six months later the leaf was still healthy but no babies had appeared. It made me wonder if I had wasted my money. Finally several tiny leaves appeared and new life was beginning. The mother leaf produced one baby which was potted up at the appropriate time. Each time a new leaf was started it produced one plant, never additional ones.

Over the years my 'Tiger' has been entered in the Violet Show and Flower Shows several times. Generally, it is at the most beautiful state when there is not a show to enter.

It was entered in the AVSA Convention in Denver in 1994 and won a blue ribbon. This year it was in full bloom in January and did not have adequate blooms in March at show time.

My method of growing 'Tiger' and my other violets is to water them on reservoirs or matting. It seems that the plant grows a little larger on matting and has a more lush appearance. Perhaps the higher humidity of matting is a benefit. The semi double dark blue-violet blooms are not terribly large but there is an abundance at times, up to 35-45

blooms. The fertilizer water most often used is Peters 12-36-14 every time and 10-50-10 once or twice a year. A drop of Superthrive in a gallon of fertilizer is also used. My lights are on about fourteen hours a day. It grows best on a lower shelf.

'Tiger' will probably stay in my collection for many years to come. It is a very satisfactory plant. A new leaf was put down recently. It probably will produce one baby as it has done in the past.

This has always been puzzling to me because most other leaves give six to ten babies.

As long as 'Tiger' does not growl or roar it can remain in my plant room. The foliage is beautiful even when it is not in bloom.



Words Of CONVENTION WISDOM

by Don Geiss
Fredric, MI & Combes, TX

It has always been my contention that there is as much to be learned between sessions of a convention as there is during the meetings. It also appears that a stranger might well observe things that a regular might miss.

The Lone Star Violet Roundup convention of the African Violet Society of America held recently in Houston was an example. The best move I made was to help Ruth Rumsey at the AVSA Sales Table. At the same time, Mrs. Geiss helped Jenny Daugereau at Registration. The two ladies were kind enough to introduce us to many of the fellow members of the society. We were thus able to chat with many of them. Prior to the convention, some were simply names mentioned in magazines or at local club meetings. Others might not have been as well known to a casual member but presented us with many tidbits of information.

Dispensing now with generalities, let's take a look at some specifics that were new to us.

A name tag read "Lynn Lombard". I could hardly sputter out the name in recalling that she was the lady who wrote a number of times complimenting us on an article in the African Violet Magazine. As we talked repeatedly during the week, it was obvious we had the same concerns about increasing membership in AVSA. We will be working together now to achieve that end.

We met Elizabeth Glazebrook at dinner. An Australian, she talked to us in snatches throughout the convention about her country. It was one which we had always desired to visit. It turned out she is doing some hybridizing and has an email address. She is destined to become our first email contact outside the continental U.S. It sounds like she has many of the same problems caused by heat as do the members of the Valley AVS in south Texas where we spend the winters. She may well have tips that will help ease the struggle of plants during the hot summer.

Next, we discovered an avid group of growers who are in email contact with each other. What a great chance to have questions answered, problems solved, and contact with growers all over the U.S.

We were like kids in a candy shop when we saw all of the plant offerings set out for purchase by the commercial growers. We learned about the new Optimara Dancer series and had a chance to have a couple of them added to

our collection much earlier than if we had waited for them to go on the open market. The beautiful 'Saturn' plant on sale at the Lyndon Lyon's booth was swamped with purchasers including the writer. Many other new plants and leaves were purchased during our tours of the Commercial Sales area.

In a private conversation with Dr. Charles Cole, he eliminated an idea we had heard about which was supposed to be a sure fire killer of thrips. It saved us much experimentation time.

There are a number of people, we discovered, who are growers and lovers of African violets, but do not show plants.

There were many other men involved with various roles at the convention. This was startling to us as almost all of the people interested in African violets that we contact in Northern Michigan and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas are ladies.

After conversing with many individuals, we theorized that people are more likely to discuss their insect and growing problems in private than in a public forum.

Working with Jenny and Ruth gave us a great appreciation of the load of work that the AVSA staff puts out. We developed greater respect for them and hopefully all members recognize the work they do for us.

We were surprised at the few opportunities available to newcomers to have basic questions answered. Unfortunately new people are often reluctant to ask questions in public. We wondered why there were not some starting from scratch workshops or perhaps some basic specific sections like potting plants or setting leaves. Come to think of it, I am not aware of any Big Brother, Big Sister approach to meeting and hosting members who attend for the first time.

Remember now that although we have been a member of the AVSA for a number of years and are acknowledged to have attended three conventions, we had never before attended the full program. Be aware then that our views are colored by being novices at these annual events.

It was a great experience and certainly one that all members should have. Plan now for Omaha. For those who have never attended keep in mind there is an old saying that a first hand exposure is the best way to learn.

How to ...

Repot African Violets

African violets should be repotted about twice a year, or every 5-6 months. Once mature, this simply means repotting the plant, with some fresh soil, into the *same* size pot. Never use a pot larger than the plant's root system - for standards, this usually means about a 4" pot, for minis and semiminis, a pot no larger than 2 1/2". Over the course of time, your violet will have lost (or had removed) its older, lower leaves, forming a "neck". Besides providing the roots with fresh soil, repotting is necessary to eliminate this.

Step 1: African violet with a "neck".

A "neck" is the palm-tree like trunk that appears over time as the lower rows of leaves are removed. A well-grown violet should have its lowest row of leaves growing from the trunk at soil-level. When a neck exists, the lowest row of leaves are well above the soil level and pot rim. By repotting, this unsightly neck can be eliminated. This is easiest to do when done *regularly*, about every 5-6 months.

Step 2: Cut away the bottom of the root ball.

Remove the plant from its pot and remove from the bottom of the root ball an amount equal to the size of the neck - i.e. if the neck is 1/2" long, remove 1/2" from the bottom of the root ball. This is why repotting is best done regularly, before the neck becomes too long. For example, in an extreme case, where a plant has a 2" neck, we would need to remove 2" from the bottom of the root ball. If the pot is only 2 1/4" deep, this means nearly the entire root system would need to be removed! By repotting when the neck is still small, very little of the root system needs to be removed, and the plant will show few, if any, effects from repotting.

Step 3: Push plant back into the same size pot.

If this is a mature plant, a larger pot is not needed. Since a bottom portion of the root ball has been removed, the violet can now be pushed lower into the pot. The objective is to lower the plant enough, so that the lowest row of leaves is even with the pot rim (i.e. no neck is visible).

Step 4: Add fresh soil.

The violet should now be lower in its pot, so that its lowest row of leaves is level with the pot rim. Add fresh soil, up to the pot rim, covering the neck. The neck will produce new roots into the added soil.

Step 5: The repotted violet.

At this point, *lightly* water the plant. This is important - until the plant begins to develop new roots in the added soil, it will require less water than before. The more drastic the repotting, the more this will be the case.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

Reprinted with permission from
VioletsFun Photo Journal (see ad page 56)

“And the winners are ...”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, KS - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Plum Pudding, Blushing Ivory; Best in Show/Best Standard: The King, **Marsha Loveland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Molokai, Happy Harold; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Julie Fox**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Snake Charmer, **Freda Brooks**. Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lavender Rosette'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. Best Trailer: Cookie Trail, **Sue Hill**. Design Sweepstakes, **Patty Hart**.

AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Irish Flirt, Wee Be; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Louise Merritt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Pride of Columbus, Pay Dirt, **Jean Jones**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Luv Texas; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jan Kuritz**. Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Jane Watts**. Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz, **Katreen Childers**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite', **Kathy Thronson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sharon Howland**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Vintage Wine, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Von's Baby Jay, Sassy Shirley; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Standard: Suncoast Lavender Silk; Best Trailer: Foster Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Spear**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Showgirl, Ward Brown, Ness' Viking Maiden, **Shirley Gomez**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beginner's Luck, Irish Flirt, Snuggles Big Eyes, **Pauline Halbert**. Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy David**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Ruffled Wood Nymph', **Ruth Jones**; Best Design, **Denise Lindsly**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Harbor Blue,

Makin' Romance; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Antique Rose, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Makin' Romance; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Little White Clouds; Best Trailer: Honey Bun Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Sorbet'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Strock**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Teen Sweetheart, Irish Flirt, Archie Boyd. Design Sweepstakes, **Doris Till**.

CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Anastasia, Apache Ranger; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Briggs**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Sassy Sister, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Mary Juby**. Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug; Best Trailer: Daisy Trail, **Lois Sprayberry**. Best Design, **Elvie Clendenning**.

DESERT SUN AVS, AZ - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Twinkle Pink; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, California Sunset, Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Collins Griffith**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Country Fair; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Aztec; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Thelma Heinrich**. Best Design, Susan Anderson. Design Sweepstakes, **Georgette Jolivet**.

FANTASY AVC, FL - Winners: Best in Show/Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Standard: Optimara Romance, **Pat Blackett**. Best Semiminiature: Handmade, **Norma Vila**. Best Miniature: Indian Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Ann Horvath**. Best Design, **Trudy Duerstock**.

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Scooter, Precious Pink; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Design, **Anne**

Nicholas. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Teen Thunder, Hondo Honey; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Eunice Curry.** Best in Show/Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Standard: Ode to Beauty; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Richard Nicholas.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sweet Dreams', **Janet Castigliane.**

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Frost, Picasso, The Alps; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Delores Gibbs.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beacon Trail, Rob's Boolaroo; Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Nancy Goss.** Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Susan Storey.** Best Miniature: Petite Tart, **Aloha Rhodes.** Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Joyce Kimbro.** Best Design, **Pat Freeman;** Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Moore.**

FIRST LAKELAND AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fisherman's Paradise, Ness' Candy Pink, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Sport of Wee Be; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marvin Nester.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fall Colors, Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara Modesty; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Teddy', **Christel Collier.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles Red Honey, Precious Pink, Pay Dirt, **Eryth Hendershot.** Best in Show (tie): *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lynne Locke** and Lullaby, **Kelly Patton.** Best Standard: Lullaby; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Kelly Patton.** Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty McVicker.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Lynne Locke.** Best Design, **Dora DiLorenzo.**

FORT WORTH AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Pink Confession, Dance Time; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hot Chocolate; Best Design, **Peggy Fergon.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Cajun Heritage, Fantasy Frost; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cajun Heritage; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Gabriel's Horn'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Alex Early.** Design Sweepstakes, **Belinda Woodruff.**

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The King, Optimara New Mexico, Optimara Rhode Island; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rebel's Gingham Elf; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Rein.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Tradition, Optimara Harlequin, Optimara Michaelangelo; Best Standard: Red Ferrari, **Robert Aurandt.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Sweetheart, Definitely Darryl, Ness' Satin Rose; Best In Show/Best Semiminiature: Teen Sweetheart; Best Design, **Kathy Lahti.** Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe, **Jean Ness.** Best Trailer: Sport of Milky Way Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann.**

LONG ISLAND AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, The Alps, Annabelle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Vogt.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Lil Hotshot; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Jeanne Maier.** Best Trailer: Rob's Wooloomooloo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Anita Rudolph.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Showgirl'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso.**

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, NE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Chief, Suncoast Paisley Print, Windy Day; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Gizmo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Designer Dress, Swifty Thriller, Mister Sun, **Nancy Price.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Satin Rose, Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby, **Susan Hapner.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard.** Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Pat Richards.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Barbra Pershing.** Best Gesneriad: *Gloxinia sylvatica* 'Bolivian Sunset', **Gary Dunlap.** Best Design, **Jeanne Cotten.** Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom.**

MOONLIGHT AVS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Optimara Monet, Optimara Michaelangelo; Best in Show: Apache Primrose, **Mural Fort.** Best Semiminiature: Dean's Cupid; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal, **Amy Trept.** Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Clark.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Jealous Heart', **Robert Scherer.** Best Design, **Bonnie Harris.** Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Diane Clark** and **Bonnie Harris.**

QUAD CITIES AVS, IA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Concord, Mindi Morn; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mindi Morn, **Doris Johnson.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Velvet Frost, Jazzy Jewel; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita subrhomboidia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Celia Schafer.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lemon Cookie, Ness' Sno Fun, Lakeshore Silver, **Alma Lavine.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Bue, Irish Flirt, Rob's Dust Storm, **Carol Boyd.** Best Semiminiature: Bogeyman, **John Jugenheimer.** Best Miniature: Lucky Lass, **LuAnn Christenson.** Best Design, **Marlene Wagner.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones.**

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA -Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary D, Magnolia, Fredette's Moonflower; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mary D; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Leopard Skin'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jim Turner.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Rhapsodie Clementine, Rain Man, **Marilee Beam.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hondo Honey, Rob's Whodunit, Lemon Drop; Best Semiminiature:

Hondo Honey, **Antoinette Luz**. Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Design, **Jacquie Eisenhut**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **Hans Inpijn**. Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Jacquie Eisenhut** and **Ralph Breden**.

TAMPA AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Barbados, Rodeo Country, Deep Dark Secret; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo Country. Best Trailer: Rob's Woolloomooloo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Peggy Waller**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Vintage Wine, Ness' Midnight Fantasy, John Menish. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly; Best Gesneriad: *Codonanthe*

paula, **Barbara Matthews**. Best Design, **Lynne Wilson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Harden**.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Wrangler's Luv Texas, Coral Crunch; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Foot, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Maverick's Tight Jeans; Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus tricolor*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Optimara Keepsake, Optimara Tradition, **Jim Smith**.

THE TINY BUT MITEY

by Tami Rawlings • Chandler, AZ

I knew that Arizona summer heat could stress my violets, but I had not seen a problem the likes of this before. The new growth on some of my larger plants was turning gray and falling off. As it turned out, what I was noticing was only one of the symptoms of mites, but I did not know this at the time. I phoned my good friend and fellow African violet grower, Georgette Jolivette, and invited her over.

Georgette inspected my violets and suggested, very politely, that all of the afflicted plants (and there were a lot of them) should be discarded. I collected leaves off some of them in the hopes of not losing my favorite varieties.

Georgette closely examined some others with a microscope, and showed me what to look for. Mites were congregated at the center of the plant. Under the microscope they looked like plump little sesame seeds with legs. (I don't know if I'll ever eat sesame seeds again.) While I was watching them, the bugs ran away from the light of the microscope, to the undersides of the plant's leaves.

Georgette did another inspection, and we dumped more plants. Eventually, I gave up trying to save any more leaves. I had shared the varieties with other club members before this happened, and I thought I could get some leaves back from them. If not, I thought, there are many African violet growers through out the United States who will be happy to sell me more leaves and plants.

We set up an assembly line process. I brought the plants down off the shelf. Georgette inspected them, discarding the remainder showing signs of mites. I mixed a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts of warm water. We dipped rags in the bleach water, wrung them out and used them to wipe down the outside of the pots. After about five minutes of using each rag, we replaced them, never dipping a "used" rag back into the bleach water solution.

As the process worn on, I was so happy to have

someone help me do this. Georgette is not only knowledgeable in diagnosing and treating the situation, but she was not emotionally attached to my plants! She didn't particularly relish the idea of tossing plants, but her support was tremendous. She showed me that if the new growth is hard and brittle or twisted or distorted, suspect mites and discard.

I also discovered that if the names of the plants are written on the sides of the pots, Solo cups here, bleach water beats the Sharpie pen. Georgette had warned me about this, but I was so overwhelmed by the magnitude of the infestation that I shrugged it off.

I washed all the plant trays with bleach water. I sterilized the water reservoirs in the dishwasher with dishwasher detergent and 1 cup of bleach added to each load. Then I washed the plant stand, the ballasts and the wall behind the stand with bleach water.

After everything was cleaned, we washed the leaves I had saved in bleach water, rinsed them with fresh water, and started them in new Solo cups with fresh soil, per the usual propagation process.

I'm spraying my plants (and leaves) with Knox Out twice a week, and will continue to do so for 4 or 5 weeks. And, I'm keeping a lookout for more signs of mites and will discard anything that looks suspicious.

Nothing beats experience in treating this problem. So, now I'm experienced. How did I get mites? I'm not certain, but I think I brought them on myself by not quarantining a large number of plants that had been out of my home. In the future, I plan to quarantine anything new, or that has been out of my house! I have decided that if I don't have the room to quarantine properly, I don't have the room, or time, for the plants in the first place. And while quarantined, I will continue to examine the plants regularly for any signs of pests!

Remembering

Lyndon Lyon

1904 - 1999

by his son, Robert Lyon

Lyndon Lyon, 94, of Dolgeville, NY, passed away May 19, 1999. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Adelaide in 1995.

Lyndon was a self-motivated man who became highly successful in life, in spite of a tenth grade education. He was self-educated, reading voraciously on many subjects. The accomplishments for which he was best known were as a hybridizer and grower of African violets.

His passion for African violets began in 1949, with the gift of an African violet leaf. For the first five years (1949 - 1954) his research and hybridizing took place at home on wooden benches under artificial lighting. By the early '50s he had 24 double benches, three tiers high, lighted for 18 hours a day, which filled the entire upper story. Lyndon was one of the first in the eastern U.S. to experiment with artificial lighting. His success with violets prompted him to expand into greenhouses; the first built in '54, the second in '56 and the third in '59.

By 1955 Lyndon's hybridizing efforts had resulted in 80 new African violet varieties, including a "double" pink, with a total of 5,000 plants under production. The double pink was the first double flower he produced and created a sensation at the 1954 AVSA Convention in St. Louis. Lyndon had predicted that double pinks would be developed, and eventually yellows, bright reds and true blues. He pioneered hybridizing "star" flowers with five petals fairly equal in size. The first such cross was made in 1952, and by 1956 he had succeeded. By 1958 he had stars in many colors, some of them frilled. In the years that followed he developed miniatures and miniature trailers, then expanded into related Gesneriads: *Espicia*, *Streptocarpus*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Sinningia*, *Gloxinia* and others. Also, in 1958, Lyndon co-authored a book, 1001 African Violet Questions Answered by 12 Experts.

By 1974 Lyndon had won the New Commercial Introduction award 10 out of the 20 years he attended conventions. He won many, many awards, trophies, plaques and ribbons, numerous First Places in categories such as horticultural perfection, Best Seedling, Best Commercial Exhibit. He was acclaimed nationally and internationally for his accomplishments.

Lyndon was experimenting with over 100 crosses per year by 1977. By 1981 he had created about 800 different varieties, and was selling over 100,000 plants per year by



*Lyndon Lyon with great, great grandson Zach.
Photo credit: Daniela Goldfarb, Lyndon Lyon's great granddaughter.*

1982. His business was about 50% retail and 50% wholesale, and there were about 50 to 60 thousand plants on view in the greenhouses at any given time.

Lyndon's ingenuity and drive boosted the world's awareness of African violets, and he was instrumental in helping African violets become "America's favorite houseplant". He considered the African violet to be the "Queen of Houseplants".

Lyndon Lyon received the AVSA Bronze Medal in 1956, at that time their highest honor. He was given an Honorary Life Membership to AVSA in 1984.

On April 10, 1999, Lyndon Lyon was inducted into the AVSA Hall of Fame at the AVSA Convention in Houston, TX. The award was presented to Lyndon's grandson, Paul Sorano, who now owns and operates the Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

At the age of 73, in 1977, Lyndon expanded into a whole new area of hybridizing in his fourth greenhouse - the rose greenhouse. He hybridized and produced miniature roses, a new passion he pursued into his 9th decade. He wanted to hybridize miniature roses without thorns, that were ever-blooming, bloomed within six weeks from seed, and were frost tolerant and disease resistant.

In 1984, at the age of 80, Lyndon retired but continued his rose research on a smaller scale, maintaining a devoted interest to the end. He went a long way in creating his ideal miniature roses, but simply ran out of time.

DISEASE AND PLANT PROBLEMS

One of the major problems associated with African violet care is excessive watering, which can lead to root or crown rot. Root and crown rot caused by the fungus *Pythium ultimum* may occur on overwatered plants. All ages of plants may be affected. The crown and roots of these infected plants turn dark and soft, and the leaves usually wilt. Infected plants can be lifted easily from the soil. This disease is not a problem when plants are grown in a pasteurized soil mixture in a container that allows for proper drainage. Destroy badly diseased plants, and thoroughly clean and disinfect their containers before reusing them.

Highly prized plants can sometimes be saved if the crown is not badly decayed. Remove the rotted portion of the crown well above the line of decay and reroot the plant in sterile medium. Petiole rot begins as an orange-brown or rust-colored lesion where the petiole touches the rim of the pot or where it contacts the soil. This is aggravated by the accumulation of fertilizer salts on the rim of the porous pot or on the soil surface. The unsightly yellow or white ring and line patterns that occasionally appear on the leaves are thought to be caused by a sudden chilling of the leaves, cold water or by the sun shining on wet leaves. This condition is known as ring spot or chlorosis, and can be avoided by carefully watering the plants from below with water slightly warmer than air temperature.

African violets infested with root-knot nematodes are stunted and weakened. Galls form on the roots, and the crown and leaves become thickened and distorted. Blister like galls also develop on the leaves. Destroy all infested plants, sterilize their containers, and propagate new plants only from nematode-free plants. The leaves of plants grown under greenhouse conditions may become infected by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*. *Botrytis* blight first appears as small water-soaked lesions on the underside of the leaf. These lesions enlarge until much of the leaf turns brown to black. Flowers may be similarly affected. High humidity, poor air circulation, and low light intensity contribute to the development of this disease. Spores of the pathogen are spread by direct contact of leaves. Spacing the plants so that the leaves of adjacent plants will not touch reduces spreading to healthy plants. Since infection by *Botrytis* often follows mite injury, controlling these pests aids in controlling the disease. The application of a foliar fungicide may be needed to control severe outbreaks.

Powdery mildew is a light gray, powdery substance on the stems and petioles. This shortens the life of blooms. Mildew grows in cool, moist, stagnant air. The best cure is air circulation - a small fan moving the air in the room will keep it from developing. Karathane is a good control, as is dusting sulfur when a very small amount is blown lightly over the plants.

Insects and mites occasionally damage the foliage and flowers of African violets. Cyclamen mites feed in the plant crown, causing young leaves and new growth to be stunted, twisted, discolored, and brittle. When infestations are heavy, leaf hairs become matted and flower buds fail to open. Cyclamen mites can be controlled by treating infested plants at weekly intervals for three weeks with dienochlor (Pentac 50WP) at a rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon of water, or with 2 or 3 applications of dicofol (Kelthane) as directed on the label. Adding a few drops of liquid detergent to the spray will increase coverage and provide better control. Isolate infested plants and be careful while handling them so you do not accidentally transfer mites from one plant to another.

Mealy bugs are small, soft-bodied insects that occur in white, cotton clusters on the surfaces of leaves, on leaf petioles, and near the bases of leaf stems. They injure plants by sucking plant juices, which causes stunting and distortion of the leaves. Mealy bugs also excrete a shiny, sticky substance called honeydew that is highly attractive to ants and also supports unsightly growths of a dark sooty mold. Heavy mealy bug infestations may cause leaves and plants to wither and die. Mealy bugs can often be eliminated by spraying plants with a jet of lukewarm water or by removing them with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. When infestations are heavy or when many plants are involved, the best approach is to make 2 to 3 weekly applications of 57% malathion at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon of water. Disulfoton (DiSyston), a systemic granular insecticide, will also provide satisfactory control if scratched into the soil and watered in. Hanging a pest strip in the vicinity of plants may help prevent reinfestation.

Ground or root mealy bugs are tiny, whitish insects that feed on African violet roots, causing poor plant growth and wilting of leaves between waterings. To control these pests, avoid overwatering and drench soils with an insecticide such as malathion or acephate (Orthene).

Stunted plants with curled or distorted leaves may be an

indication of feeding of aphids. Both adults and nymphs are similar in appearance with soft, pear-shaped bodies, long legs, and antennae. Like mealybugs, aphids excrete honeydew which gives leaf surfaces a shiny appearance and supports the formation of sooty mold. Aphids can be washed from infested African violets with a spray of lukewarm water, or treated with an insecticide such as 57% malathion at a rate of 2 teaspoons per gallon of water plus a few drops of liquid detergent. Repeat this treatment after 7 to 10 days. When only a few plants are involved, consider using a premixed, commercial house plant spray that lists both aphids and African violets on the label.

Thrips are small, slender insects characterized by long, hair-fringed wings. They damage African violets by feeding on the leaves and flowers. Typical leaf injury appears as irregular or streaked silvered areas dotted with small, black

drops of excrement. Flower feeding causes distorted blooms, discoloration or streaking of petals and shorter flower life. Thrips can be controlled with 1 or 2 applications of premixed, commercial house plant spray containing malathion or Orthene. Be sure that the product is specifically labeled for both thrips and African violets.

Some pesticides damage plants, so be certain the product you select is recommended for use on African violets. In many cases, the label provides a list of plants known to be sensitive to the pesticide, as well as those plants for which it is recommended. When possible, test-treat a few plants and look for signs of plant injury after 2 to 7 days before treating remaining plants.

Reprinted with permission from the *MAAVS MEMO*
publication of Mid-Atlantic AVS

How to Groom a Young Violet

One of the most difficult things for a novice grower to do is to remove leaves, no matter how unnecessary they may be. When we're new to the hobby, just keeping the violet alive and healthy is an achievement, and a plant with more leaves somehow seems more "alive" than one with fewer. Why would we want to remove leaves we are so proud to have been able to grow in the first place?

Regular grooming, though, will benefit your violet in the long run. By removing unnecessary leaves, the remaining growth will be healthier and develop more fully. Its shape, or symmetry, will also be improved, making it a more attractive plant.

Leaves that should be removed are those that are yellowed or otherwise unhealthy. Immature leaves, which are usually smaller and weaker should also be removed.

These are always found below the more mature foliage. Even though these leaves are the oldest, they appear less well developed than newer growth.

Symmetry will be improved by removing leaves, usually from the lowest row, that are overlapped or hidden by leaves in the upper rows, or whose absence won't create additional gaps or spaces in the shape of the plant.

Don't be afraid to remove leaves. Since blooms are normally produced only from the top few rows of leaves, blooming won't be affected and healthier, more symmetrical foliage growth will be encouraged.

Reprinted with permission from
VioletsFun Photo Journal (see ad page 56)

In Memory

JEANNE MYERS

The Seattle AVS is saddened by the recent loss of long time member, Jeanne Myers.

For many years, Jeanne was an integral part of the organization and missed very few meetings. She was an active member for over 25 years, and most recently was responsible for the Blossom Contest. She served the Seattle AVS as Awards Chair and Representative to the Pacific Northwest Judges Council. Jeanne was always willing to share her methods in growing and design.

FLORENCE L. STEIN

There are no age barriers when growing African violets. Florence Stein joined the Amethyst AVC in St. Louis thirty days after her 85th birthday.

Her large collection of African violets, grown in natural

light, provided her with many pleasant hours - but her biggest thrill was the red ribbon awarded to one of her plants that was repotted and entered in a local AVSA show by a fellow club member. When Florence could no longer attend club meetings, cards kept her in touch. A centenarian when she passed away in April, 1999, Florence will be forever remembered by our club.

FLORETTA A. WILLETS

AVSA Master Judge, Floretta A. Willets, passed away in April, 1999. Floretta began growing African violets in 1948, and became a judge in the 1960s. In 1997, at the age of 97, Floretta was acknowledged as the oldest active judge in AVSA. This was at the St. Pete, FL, convention, where she helped judged the national show. Flo is survived by her daughter, Nancy, also an avid grower of African violets, as well as a judge.



Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Nancy Price - Cedar Falls, IA

***Colette** (8781) 2/23/99 (N. Price) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

.....

David Thompson - Waterloo, IA

***King David** (8782) 2/23/99 (D. Thompson) Semidouble chimera blue frilled star/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

.....

Catherine Thompson - Cedar Falls, IA

***Prince of Blues** (8783) 2/23/99 (C. Thompson) Double white ruffled star/variable blue center, rays; green edge. Medium green, pointed, wavy. **Standard**

.....

Paul Davidson - Utica, NY

***Baker's Anna-Belle** (8784) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single magenta sticktite/variable white top petals. Dark green. **Standard**

***Baker's Carrie** (8785) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet ruffled/variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***Baker's Louise** (8786) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double pink. Light green, plain, pointed/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Lynn** (8787) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light rose sticktite ruffled pansy/darker eye. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Nancy** (8788) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double magenta star. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Ruth** (8789) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single dark purple sticktite pansy/variable white. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

***Baker's Sarah** (8790) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light mauve sticktite star/darker edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Stacey** (8791) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

***Baker's Tatyana** (8792) 2/27/99 (P. Davidson) Semidouble light pink/darker eye. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

.....

Sara McGaha- Cumming, GA

***Opera Doc** (8793) 3/8/99 (S. McGaha) Double blush pink/variable green tips. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Miniature trailer**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Jean Stokes - Sacramento, CA

* Andalusia * California a Shakin' * Domingo's Granada * Go Go Dancer * Jeannie's Lil Dumplin' * Jeannie's Petulant Pony

Nell Ransone - Tavares, FL

* All That Magic * Grand Dame * Magnificent * Pinafore Alta * Whirlybird

REGISTRATION CHANGE

Miss Santa Cruz (8729) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white and-or green edge, variable darker tips.

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson
1100 Huntingdon Dr. #21
Arcadia, CA 91007

1985

Autumn Honey #4462 (Groeneman)
Black Ace #3541 (Nadeau)
Cherry Frosting #4333 (Fredette)
Disco Dazzler #3909 (Lyon)
Granger's Carnival #4298 (Eyerdom)
Granger's Heart's Desire #3407 (Eyerdom)
Irish Angel #4054 (L. Egenites)
Kristi Marie #3914 (Lyon)
Polly Doodle #4339 (Fredette)
Rhapsodie® Barbara #6979 (Holtkamp)
Something Special #3668 (Nadeau)
Splish Splash n/r (Lyon)
Spring Fling #3553 (Nadeau)
Sundown #3598 (Utz)
Swamp Fever #4046 (Sisk)

1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)
Dominique #4335 (Fredette)
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)
Optimara® Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)
Optimara® New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)
Granger's Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)
Interlude #4935 (Eyerdom)
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)
Granger's Valencia #4051 (Eyerdom)
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)
Trail Along n/r (Lyon)
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)
Dumplin' #3931 (Swift)
Fairy Queen n/r (Fisher)
Kiwi Dazzler #5888 (Snell)
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)
Optimara® Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

1998

Ness' Crinkle Blue #8136 (D. Ness)
International n/r (B. Johnson)

To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.

(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)

What Makes This Club So Successful?

The Cedar Valley African Violet Club

by Barbara Pershing • Cedar Falls, IA

"What is a measure of 'success' for an affiliate club?" I decided to ask our club members for their thoughts. What makes our club, the Cedar Valley African Violet Club (CVAVC), a "successful" AVSA affiliate?

The CVAVC was started in 1991 by a few African violet growers in the community, spearheaded by a member who had been a member of other clubs and was an AVSA senior judge. Thanks to an article and picture of the officers of the new club in our local/regional newspaper, the membership grew from 10 charter members to about 30 members within a few months.

Membership fluctuates but is fairly stable at about 45 members. About half of the members live up to an hour's drive from our meeting place.

We have a nice mixture of talent among members including three judges, a botanist, and an entomologist. In the beginning, we all banded together and helped each other by sharing plants, materials and advice. We found an opportunity to make new friends with a common interest and the diversity of the group - men and women of all ages, working and retired people - makes the group interesting. One club member said that the diversity of the group "drew me to it." Another member commented that "people are very willing to share their growing secrets".

Probably the most important function of an affiliate club is to provide an opportunity for members to learn. Programs are an essential part of the meetings and a wide variety of informative programs are planned each year. Several members are experienced growers who are willing to share their expertise. Other members are willing to give a program on a given topic or to moderate a question-answer type of program if they are asked. We use AVSA slide programs once or twice a year and one program each year is on 'other gesneriads'. The annual DAWG show is a popular program that can be very informative when a problem solving approach is taken. The first couple of years most programs were very basic topics and we have one program each year on "back to the basics" but program content has become more diverse and specific to the various aspects of growing and showing African violets.

The *Bloomin' Violet*, our club newsletter, is a way of reaching all members, active and inactive, with information

about the club activities, members of the club, AVSA, the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, and articles on various aspects of growing African violets. We have an archive of literature that is available for members to check out at each meeting. The number of AVSA members, (about half of our members are members of AVSA) has grown as they are exposed to the African Violet Magazine and hear from members who have attended Council and AVSA Shows.

In order to keep the business meetings at less than 30 minutes the officers and directors have a board meeting about 4 times a year to plan and make decisions to bring to the club. Regular meetings, low membership dues, refreshments, informative programs, plant sales, and supplies for sale at every meeting are all an important part that makes the club function. The Club maintains a substantial inventory of pots, fertilizer, pesticides, 'soil' mix, sponge rock and other supplies which are sold at cost to members.

It takes money to put on a show. A plant raffle was started at the first meeting and continues to be a popular part of club meetings. Members sign-in at the door and receive a number. During the refreshment period, numbers are drawn until each person has a turn at the sale table where they make one selection, then the sale is open to everyone. Members have an opportunity to sell plants and leaves at club meetings and at the annual show/sale. The Club retains 25% and member receives 75% of the sale price.

The annual show/sale is held the same week-end and same location every year. We have many people who have grown to expect us to be at the Mall the last Friday and Saturday of September. Members are now growing enough good quality sale plants that it has not been necessary to order from commercials for the past two years.

Our first two shows were not AVSA Standard Shows; we needed time to learn "how to do it". We are now planning the 8th annual show; 6th AVSA Standard Show. We have kept records from each show along with suggestions for next time and each year it gets easier and better.

While we would like for more members to show plants (we did have 50% of our active members exhibit at our last

show), we recognize that we have several kinds of members:

1. Those who grow for show and enter many exhibits
2. Those who show one to five entries in addition to project plants
3. Those who enter project plants only (Members who show their project plants receive next year's project plant free)
4. Those who enter designs (usually with considerable arm-twisting)
5. Those who are willing workers in the sales area, but don't enter any exhibits
6. Members who grow from 700+ plants on light stands to others who have a dozen grown on window-sills.

We have had fantastic response to our annual show/sale

which is our best membership recruitment. We have been very fortunate to have had great publicity in our local/regional newspaper. The Lifestyle editor has been a great resource in getting the message out about our show and the Club. For the last four show/sales, we have kept a list of buyers and have sent a follow-up thank-you for buying/club promotion letter. The AVSA affiliate web-site has also gotten the attention of interested people. Probably the most effective membership recruitment is when members invite interested individuals to club meetings and make them feel welcome. New members are given a small starter plant when they join.

The Cedar Valley African Violet Club has come a long way in nine years and it will continue to grow as long as the Club continues to meet the needs of its members and brings new members into the fellowship and camaraderie surrounded by our favorite houseplant, the African violet.



FUNGUS GNATS

by John Beaulieu



Anyone who has grown houseplants for any length of time has seen these tiny dark brown insects swarming around the pots, especially when you are watering, which disturbs them. Many people think that they are 'Fruit Flies', which they do resemble when flying. They are in fact fungus gnats of the genus *Bradysia* or *Sciara*.

They are really only a nuisance. These flying adults do no damage and only live for about a week. The female lays eggs in your potting mix. They love moist soil that is rich in organic matter. Fungus gnat eggs can hatch within a week and the maggots (larvae) will live in the potting mix for several weeks before they turn into immobile pupae and then the flying adult stage.

It is the maggots that do the damage to your plants. They feed on organic matter which includes the plant roots. They can even feed on parts of the lower stems and leaves of the plants. New seedlings are particularly vulnerable to damage from the maggots. Fortunately they don't do a lot of damage in a short time, but if left unchecked so the numbers of insects can keep growing, your plants will start to suffer. Gnat-infested plants will of course grow slowly and will not be as robust as they should be due to the constant feeding on their roots.

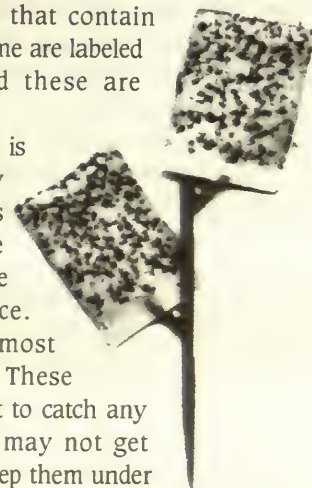
It seems like there must be gnat eggs in packaged peat moss based potting mixes, so it is recommended that you sterilize any new mix. (Microwave or 180°F in oven)

The adults are easily controlled with most regular house plant insect sprays. The maggots can be reduced by letting

the soil get fairly dry between watering but this is not always good for some of your plants. Soil drenches with solutions of malathion or Sevin are recommended. Always be careful to follow directions that come with this type of product. There are powders that contain diazinon that are available (some are labeled for the fungus gnats) and these are sprinkled into your soil.

Control of the flying adults is also safely accomplished by using the yellow sticky sticks and strips. The gnats are attracted to the yellow and are trapped on the sticky surface. Eventually you will catch most adults and break the cycle. These traps should always be present to catch any new gnats. Using the traps may not get 100% of the pests but it will keep them under control to the point where there should be no significant damage being done to your plants.

Another 'safe' method for fighting these pests is the use of beneficial nematodes, a natural predator of the fungus gnat larvae.



*Reprinted with permission from
African Violet and Gesneriad News*

Sometimes You Have to Improvise: An Affiliate Program Suggestion

by David Buttram
Independence, MO

If you are the Program Chairman or an officer of your African violet club, you may want to try a fresh idea. After all, there are only so many ways you can root leaves.

Several years ago, when our affiliate, The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, had a good bank balance, we decided to bring in a nationally known hybridizer and AVSA commercial. As Program Chairman, I saw that airline tickets were purchased, a hotel room was reserved, publicity was sent out, and then all was set.

The day before he was to arrive, a phone call from our invited guest sent me into a near panic. Our guest-to-be had suddenly become ill and had to cancel his trip.

With newspapers already notified and invitations sent out, what to do? What could we do?

Then an idea occurred to me. If our guest couldn't come to us, then we would go to another guest via the phone lines and a tape recorder. I contacted our club president and got permission to go ahead and explore the possibility.

I went to Radio Shack and bought a small microphone especially designed to pick up telephone conversations. Then I called three well-known hybridizers and asked if they would be willing to be interviewed by telephone, with that conversation to be recorded and later played at a club meeting. I next asked for a convenient time to call back.

My next step was to practice talking on the phone with family members with the tape recorder on to get the proper sound level. After being satisfied with the results, I made my first call back.

Just as soon as the party answered, I started the recorder and asked, "Please understand that I am recording this conversation. Will you give me your permission to continue?" In most states, once the other person has acknowledged and granted his permission, it is legal to continue.

The questions and answers lasted about ten minutes for each of the three growers. The questions were general questions I thought the club members would have asked: "How did you get started?" "How do you water?" "What about fertilizer?" "What are your new introductions like?"

The total time for the three growers was a little more than thirty minutes.

The next evening, I arrived at the club meeting with my cassette player and no guest. Most of the members had not

heard of the cancellation and were puzzled to see me alone. I immediately explained the situation and promised an excellent substitute.

The taped interviews were a hit with the club. Many of the members had never been to an AVSA convention or visited a major greenhouse to hear a well-known hybridizer share his or her insights and thoughts on African violets.

As word got around about the interviews, the presidents of three other clubs called me, asking to borrow the cassette tape for a program. I was glad to share with them what had turned out to be a great program. And it was a lot cheaper than the airline tickets and hotel expenses.

Summary

- 1) Ask your club members who they would like to hear via telephone recording. If time permits, have them submit questions.
- 2) Call the Attorney General's office in the state where you are calling to have them advise you on the legality of recording a phone call in that state.
- 3) Call the hybridizer/grower and explain your plan and ask for a few minutes for an interview.
If agreeable, ask for a convenient time to call back. This will allow the person time to gather a few thoughts and finish a job they may have been doing when you called.
- 4) Buy a microphone for a telephone. Any electronics store should have them for only \$6.00 to \$8.00. These have a suction cup that easily sticks to the back of the head piece and requires no wiring or electrical hookup.
- 5) Make sure your tape player has a new cassette and fresh batteries and is powerful enough to be heard in your meeting room.
- 6) After the meeting, send a "Thank You" to each person interviewed.
- 7) Let other clubs in your area know of the tape and offer it for their use. They may be willing to reimburse for a portion of the long-distance phone calls.

Sometimes it is more interesting to improvise than it is to follow carefully laid plans. That was the case for us, and I think your club will enjoy it too.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
2 Fri. 11:35 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
5 Mon. 6:22 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Tues.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 6:57 am
7 Wed. 10:22 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
8 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
9 Fri. 11:59 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
10 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
11 Sun. 12:27 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	New 9:24 pm
13 Tue. 1:25 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
14 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
15 Thu. 4:39 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
16 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
17 Sat. 11:19 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
18 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
19 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
20 Tue. 9:30 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 4:01 am
21 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
22 Thu. 9:49 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
23 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Sun. 10:09 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
27 Tue. 8:55 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 6:25 am
29 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
30 Fri. 5:27 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
31 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun. 11:47 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
2 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
3 Tue. 4:08 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
4 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 12:26 pm
5 Thu. 6:57 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
6 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
7 Sat. 8:52 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
8 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
9 Mon. 10:55 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 6:09 am
12 Thu. 2:22 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
13 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
14 Sat. 8:25 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
15 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
16 Mon. 5:41 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
17 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 8:48 pm
19 Thu. 5:32 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Sat. 5:59 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
22 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
23 Mon. 4:49 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
24 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
25 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
26 Thu. 12:49 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 6:48 pm
27 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
28 Sat. 6:09 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
30 Mon. 9:40 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
31 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL AVSA AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS

from Anne Tinari, Membership & Promotion Committee Chairman

Box 190, 2325 Valley Rd. • Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

We regard AVSA affiliates as the backbone of our great society. To every Affiliate President we are innovating a special request for you to be instrumental in suggesting that all of your club members become members of AVSA. This may not seem an easy task, but our need for new members is urgent.

You are probably aware of our membership reduction in the past few years. We need your help in a special effort to increase our membership to the lucrative number we enjoyed over the years.

Our committee has sent out, since January, over 200 personal letters with self addressed, stamped envelopes to former non-renewal members with very little response. Through this "open letter" we hope to contact all affiliate presidents.

Please inform me if your affiliate meets the 100% AVSA membership request. A listing of all 100% affiliates will be published in a future issue of the AVM.

We wish to thank every member of the affiliate and your Affiliate Chairman, Bev Promersberger for her special service to AVSA.

The fabric of our society is made of individuals who care and wish to further the future of AVSA into the new millennium - help us achieve this goal.

SPECIAL BONUS TO CLUBS WITH 100% AVSA MEMBERSHIP

A 50th Anniversary Book will be sent to the first 50 affiliate clubs who report their 100% AVSA membership (please state number of members). Presidents, please send me your full name and address so this may be sent to you promptly for your club's library.

Please act now, as only the first 50 affiliates who send me this information will be entitled to this special bonus.

VioletsFun Photo Journal

Each issue contains 4 full-color pages, interesting articles and cultural information 6 issues per year, \$10 (\$10 outside of US).

VioletsFun, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512
Phone: 716-374-8592 VioletsFun@aol.com

Reminder

Best Variety Lists are due to

Floyd Lawson

1100 W. Huntington Dr. #21

Acradia, CA 91007

by July 31



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1999 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$38 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



AD EXPIRES 09/30/99

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.
Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.
Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

VIOLET VENTURE

Fay Wagman • 52 Harper Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534
Leaves only - List \$1.00

WANTED

Volkman Bros. African Violet Catalogs (1968-1975)
Rodney Sallee
8206 E. 71st St.
Tulsa, OK 74133

*A new independent
AV and Gesneriad publication!*

African - violet and Gesneriad NEWS

IN CANADA \$15/yr (4 issues) (All other countries \$15. US)
Send for a sample copy - only \$2.

Payment must be made out to **John Beaulieu Productions**
37 Shaw Crescent, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Z3 (705) 726-7363



African violets know no borders, so why not
become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African
violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC
and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeaux, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your
African violet collection requiring the
same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes
and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags
year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information
or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388



Violet Showcase Potting Medium

Our Potting Medium is a mixture of sifted sphagnum peat moss,
course vermiculite, course perlite, horticultural charcoal, dolomite lime
and trace elements. PH approximately 6.5. This soilless medium, which
we mix ourselves, is used for all of our violets and other gesneriads. It is
packaged dry. Moisten it thoroughly at a rate of 1 cup very hot water per
quart of medium before using. Thousands of users report success with
our medium growing by wicking, capillary matting, Oyama Planters,
Swift's Moist Rites, and ceramic "soak thru" pots. We use it both for starter
plants and full grown plants.

3 Qt. Bag: \$2.89

9 Qt. Bag: \$6.79

40 Qt. Bag: \$23.89

(Colorado addresses add 3% tax) Shipping charges: Orders totaling
up to \$3.00 add \$3.50 shipping; orders totaling between \$3.01 and \$7.00, add \$6.00 shipping; orders totaling over \$7.01 add \$9.00
shipping. Orders for more than 40 qts combined total will be invoiced at prevailing catalog prices and shipping costs. **This ad expires
January 31, 2000.**

Special Offer. Sample bag (1 Quart) \$4.00, shipping included. All prices and shipping charges are for U.S. addresses.
Checks, Money Orders, MasterCard, VISA, and Discover Card accepted. Mail your order or phone (303) 761-1770 during
shop hours: 10 AM to 5 PM [Mountain Time] Mon. or Wednesdays thru Saturdays. Closed Sundays + Tuesdays.
Fax (24 hours a day) (302) 762-1808. Free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list sent with order or send for free copy.
Customers outside the US please send \$2 for our catalog/list. *In business since 1969.*

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110



BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

priarieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials

PHYSAN 20™ Controls AfricanViolet Pathogens.

- Controls Algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls disease spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20.**



MARIL PRODUCTS, INC.
320 West 6th Street
Tustin, CA. 92780
P. 714.544.7711
800.546.7711
F. 714.544.4830

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

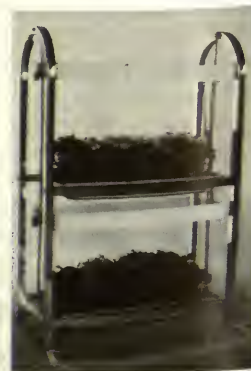
FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

- ◆ PLANT TRAYS ◆ LIGHTED STANDS ◆
- ◆ METERS, TIMERS ◆ PLANTLITES ◆ ACCESSORIES ◆

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D



Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES, INC.

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Our 1999 Supplement to the 1998 Catalog is now available. Please call or write for your free copy! Phone number (315) 429-8291

— OR —

Visit our website at:
www.lyndononlyon.com

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality Hybrids
Since 1954



Specializing in large, variegated standards
and exciting new varieties from
"Hobby Hybridizers."

Buckeye Cherry Topping - Bright pink pansies with a wide, ruffled dark cherry glitter edge on gorgeous almost black-green, pink and cream variegated foliage. Large.

Rodeo Country - Medium blue bloom with slight fringe on dark green tailored foliage with red back. Standard.

Rebel's Midnight Mauve - Semidouble lavender-violet two-tone large ruffled star/darker edge. Variegated black-green, tan and pink, pointed, glossy, red back. Large

... Shipping fresh-cut leaves only ...
16 page list - \$1.50 in cash, stamps, or check

Payable to **Pat Hancock**
P. O. Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524



500 Varieties - **NO LIST** - Shipping "Our **Bill & Kathryn Paaue**
Choice" leaves only (with suggestions). 45 Third Street
Specify Std or Mini/Semi. \$1.00 per variety, W. Sayville, NY 11796
plus \$7.00 per order for Priority Mail. (516) 589-2724
Inquiries invited. violetsbyappointment@juno.com

SUMMER! SUMMER! SUMMER

TOO HOT TO SHIP IN JULY AND AUGUST!!
A GOOD TIME TO GET YOUR FALL ORDERS IN.



We have a good supply of plants still available of all this years favorites. Rob's 1999 varieties. Dean's Rosalie, Dean's Peach Sherbet, Pittman's Donelle, Dancing Eyes, Ness' Puppy Prints, Stork's Aunt Irene, Aunt Georgia. A sampling of our little ones.

Hancock's Buckeye Blushing, Ness' Blueberry Kiss. Stork's Good Morning Pink, Suncoast Royal Punch, Brownlies Theresa. These are a few of our standards. **TRAILERS:** Summer Wind Tr., Foster Tr., Sandy Tr., Discovery Tr., Reddi Tr. These Trailers are all new for this year and are hybridized by Hortense Pittman! The above varieties and more are described in our 1999 catalog available for \$1.00.

LEAVES OF SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - 24 CURRENT AND PREVIOUS RELEASES
\$20.00 OR 50 \$38.00.

SHIRLEY'S CHOICE 24 CURRENT RELEASES \$24.00

Priority shipping on leaves \$6.00. Texans add 7 3/4% tax.

PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR \$3.75 EACH PLUS \$7.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING ON UP TO 6 PLANTS.
OVER THAT ADD 40 CENTS PER PLANT.

You will be notified by telephone before we ship your order
Please include your phone number with your order!

Make checks payable to
Shirley Sanders

1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX 78221
Telephone number 210-923-1093

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC	3.00	5.00	12.00	20.00	80.00
----	------	------	-------	-------	-------

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Capillary Matting - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

Plant Labels 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	2 gal.	\$3.50
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
4 oz./\$7.75		
PETERS FERTILIZER		
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER		
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75
INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES		
SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP -Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:
THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
 P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
 (352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

**A & W VIOLETS
OUR SECOND YEAR**

Best organized New varieties
Lots more starter plants!
Catalog \$2
8704 E. 92nd Pl. K.C. MO. 64138
(816) 765-5589



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

AFRICAN VIOLET BEAUTIES

From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Old favorites and new beauties. List \$1.00.
Walkins welcome. U.S. Ship only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS
(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Rd.
Omaha, Arkansas 72662

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states

Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



**Super
Miniatures**

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from
Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are
included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



**Teas Catalog
FREE to AVSA**

Fertilizers, violet pots including
the Dandy Pot® plus orchids,
plumerias, bromeliads, books,
and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY FREDERICKS, INC.

Alyce Droege Charlene Lentz

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!

STANDARDS in 3" & 4" pots, plus leaves

MINIS

TRAILERS

EPISCIAS

CHIRITAS

CHIMERAS

STREPTOCARPUS

and other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"

fertilizers - spray - "my own mix" soil

Dandy pots - 2 sizes - many colors

growing pots - Oyamas - hanging baskets

beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)

6 sizes - decorator colors

Home of Aly's hybrids

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

P. O. Box 1416

Franklin, NC 28744

Monday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

1-828-349-4832

www.african-violets.com

Florida Registration number: 47219602



**HATTIE BAGGETT'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Specializing in Large Flowering Standards, Lots of Oldies

Plus New Varieties, Shipping Fresh Cut Leaves Only.

State Inspected and Certified - Shipping United States Only

1999 List \$1.50 - Payable to

Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1999

Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett

HCR 2, Box 381

Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

Fun for the hobbyist ~ Great club project!

Packets contain 3-5 different crosses - With instructions

Postpaid \$5.00 - Cash, Check or Money Order

Sharon Holtzman (MsViolet1@aol.com)

6971 Olentangy Ln. ~ Newtown, OH 45244-3146



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants

Catalog - \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist

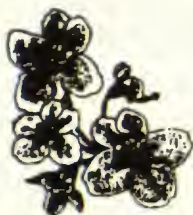
(520) 326-3057

email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.

Tucson, AZ 85712

by appointment only



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

**Winner, Best Commercial Display
at 1999 AVSA Convention Show**

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including Rob's Hallucination, Best New Cultivar at 1999 AVSA Convention Show.

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful! Large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cute!; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow!; sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....plus dozens of other favorites

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & Greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

You know African Violets -
now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, round robins, annual
convention, plus a copy of
"How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$20.00

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00

Please send check, money order, or
credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194 USA

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world
of orchids each month when you
become a member of the American
Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the
American Orchid Society Bulletin to pages filled with
priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied
by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special
advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants,
supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and
whatever else is needed to become a successful grower.
Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your
fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color
membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666



*The Association for plant &
flower people who grow in
hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)
Sample magazine \$3.50
Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50



Blue & Gold Embroidery

Denim shirts with violet design are avail-
able in S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Send
\$28.00 + \$3.00s&h (VA residents add
\$1.26) to address below. Be sure to in-
clude return address. Hats and other
merchandise also available.

Nancy L. Crochet

6104 Wyoma Court
Springfield, VA 22152-1636

Phone: 703-912-9005
ncrochet@sprynet.com

1-800-770-AVSA

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.
Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.
Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net

Phone: 334-899-7142

check us out on the web

www.graceba.net/~royh



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS, TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**

Calif. add 6% sales tax

overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92705

SAVE \$2.05 PER BOOK!

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.



CAPE COD VIOLET

John & Barbara Cook
Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798
Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540
SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")		1	6	12	25	50
9"	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
	Gr. only	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$4.19

2 oz. - \$5.25

4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid

Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols

Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.

Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;

3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;

West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies

Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.

Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and

Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula Type Size / Price

7-9-5	Plant Food	
3-12-6	Bloom	
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	
Concentrate	K-L-N	

Dolomite Limestone

Charcoal

No. 4 Coarse or

Vermiculite

Perlite

Canadian Peat Moss

TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide

\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths

1/2 pt.	1 pt.
\$4.29	\$6.29
\$4.29	\$7.49
\$4.29	
\$4.29	
\$10.00	

2 lbs./\$1.75	
20 oz.	40 oz.
1.75	3.25

4 qts.	16 qts.
1.75	5.00
1.75	5.00
\$1.75	\$5.00

SUMMER'S HERE AND WEATHERS FINE, ORDER NOW, GROW PLANTS SUBLIME.

SUMMER SPECIAL ...

LARGE FULLY GROWN AFRICAN VIOLETS IN MANY STANDARD AND OPTIMARA VARIETIES. ALL IN 3" OR 4" POTS. ASSORTED OUR CHOICE (one of a kind sent).

5 for \$21.95 postpaid

10 for \$36.95 postpaid

ADD INTEREST TO YOUR COLLECTION ... \$3.95 each
Fantasy Freckles, Halo's Aglitter and Luminescence.

IRRESISTIBLE BEAUTIES ... \$2.95 each
Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Fire Mountain, Louise, Red Robe, White Cameo.

A RAINBOW OF COLORS ... \$2.49 each
Anniversary Tribute, Azure Blue, Bangle Blue, Brandywine, Ingrid, Morning Thunder, Pink Heaven, Pink Hill, Rose Lisere, Wonderland.

VARIEGATED VARIETIES ... \$2.95 each
Nancy Reagan, Romance, Tradition.

MINIATURE/SEMIMINIATURE
Blue Ice, Little Pro, Taffy ... **\$2.49 each**
Little White Beauty, Mini Favorite, Pretty Baby ... **\$2.95 each**

SEMINIATURE TRAILERS ... LIL' ROUND AROUND ... \$2.95 each
Pixie Blue, Rosina ... **\$2.49 each**

OPTIMARA INDIAN SUMMER SERIES (miniature) ... \$2.95
Little Apache Girl, Little Blackfoot Girl, Little Cherokee Girl, Little Comanche Girl, Little Crow Girl, Little Hopi Girl, Little Inca Girl, Little Shoshone Girl, Little Sioux Girl.

SPECIAL OFFER ... We have available **MINI-DANDY POTS** suitable for the Indian Summer Series violets only in pink or blue ... **\$3.25 each**

TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION MAY WE SUGGEST:
TINARI'S AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM

Properly blended growing medium; the same as used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart poly bag zone 0-1-2 **\$12.95 ppd.**
12 Quart poly bag zone 3-4-5 **\$13.95 ppd.**
12 Quart poly bag zone 6-7-8-9 **\$14.95 ppd.**
(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

OPTIMARA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD - An excellent formulation of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash 14-12-14. Each box contains 15 pre-measured packets. Simply mix one pre-measured packet in one gallon of water ... **\$2.49 per box** with any order.

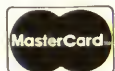
SEND FOR 1999 COLOR CATALOG ... \$1.00

PACKING AND POSTAL COSTS:

First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone 0-1-2 **\$6.95 per shipment**
Zone 3-4-5 **\$7.95 per shipment**
Zone 6-7-8-9 . . . **\$8.95 per shipment**

CA and all customers West of MS are served best via USPS **PRIORITY**. Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage stated for this service.



DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

Tinari
GREENHOUSES
Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 947-0144 • Fax (215) 947-2163

QK 1
.A3149

African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September + October 1999

Volume 52

Number 5



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$22.00; Council, State or Region - \$22.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 10 Scott Dr. N, Broomfield, CO 80020-1138.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Ann Miller, Convention Director, 522 Willow Wisp Circle, Spring, TX 77388. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Omaha, NE - June 11-18, 2000, Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Carolyn Burr, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, MO 63021-7004. Email carolnburr@aol.com.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1999, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

**1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)**

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$20.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1999 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October

Volume 52

Number 5

CONTENTS

MISSOURI BOTANICAL

SEP 07 1999

FEATURES

Dear AVSA - Don & Jean Ness	5
Master List Editorial Correction	5
Notice: Judges	5
New Way to Grow Those Stubborn Bloomers - Barbara Goodsell	7
Variation in African Violets - Sue Hoffner	10
Reflections on the '99 Convention - Malinda Ballwin ..	10
Taletell Leaves	11
Minutes of AVSA 1999 Annual Meeting	13
Lone Star AV Council '99 Convention	18
Violets on Broadway - MAAVS '99 Convention	18
On-demand Pump Watering System - Barbara & Rex Pershing	22
pH, Should I Bother? - Ron Smith	24
Have a Little Fun...Make a Dish Garden... It's Easy! - Alma Ficke	26
Cleopatra's Problem Solved? - Nadine Parsons	27
AVSA Statement of Condition	27

AVSA Research Pays Off - Your Donation Dollars at Work - Charles Cole	31
Goodbye Mealies, Goodbye! - Sonja Holm	35
Marketing Committee Named	35
Favorite Tools & Gadgets - Mary Ann Switzer	38
Tips on Thrips - Sharon Holtzman	39
Proper Potting Pays Dividends - Anne Tinari	45
Knowing Your Violets...Basic Flower Types - Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson	46
Air and Your Plants - Sue Gardner	47
Worth Repeating: Fantasies - Nature's Gorgeous Goof - Donald Baker	48
Blossom Types	49
So You'd Like to Make a Seed Pod? - Pat Hancock ..	50
Standard Light Fixture - John Beaulieu	51
~~Sixty Minute Meeting~~ - Joyce Stenger	53
Where They Once Grew	54
Chimeras	55

GARDEN LIBRARY

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Bill Foster	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	6
Question Box - Ralph Robinson	8
Shows & Judges - Billie Golla	12
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	14
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	15
AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin	15
For Beginners - Al & Cathy Cornibe	16
Registration Report - Iris Keating	19
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	20
Showcase (1)	28
AVSA Affiliates - Bev Promersberger	30

Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	31
Showcase (2)	32
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	34
AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	34
Showcase (3)	36
Planting by Moon Signs	41
"And the Winners Are..." - Mary Corondan	42
In Memory	50
Coming Events	52

CONVENTION

What Is Wild About Omaha?	5
Back To Business! - Linda Golubski	18
Thanks For Auction Success - Pat Richards	51

COVER

Rob's Hallucination
Best New Introduction
1999 National Show
Hybridized and Exhibited by:
Ralph Robinson
Semiminiature
Photo Credit:
Winston J. Goretsky



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 61
A & W Violets 61
African Violet and
Gesneriad News 57
African Violets by Fredricks, Inc. . . 61
African Violet Seed 59
AGGS 63
Alannah's Greenhouses 59
American Orchid Society 63
AV Enterprises Press 64
AVS of Canada 57

B

Bayou Violets 57
Belisle's Violet House 58

C

Cape Cod Violetry 62
Country Violets Greenhouse . . . 64
Cryptanthus Society 57

D

Desert Violets 61
Dyna Gro 64

E

Evergreen Violets 61

F

Flower & Garden Magazine . . . 40

H

Hattie Baggett's African Violets . . 61
Herbal Garden Ceramics 64
Hobby Greenhouse Association . . 63

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 58

J

J F Industries 56

L

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses 56

M

Mighty Minis 56

N

Neptune's Harvest 57

O

Optimara/Selective Gardner . . . 25

P

Pat's Patch 56
Pat's Pets 58
Prairie Violets 58
Physan 20 58

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets . . Inside Back Cover

S

Shirley's House of Violets 59
ShoMe Violets 59
Sonja's AV's 61
Source Technology 63

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 64
Teas Nursery 61
Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
Travis' Violets 56

V

VioletsFun Photo Journal 63
Violets by Appointment 59
Violet House 60
Violet Showcase 57
Violet Venture 57
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses . . 58



OFFICERS:

Bill Foster, President
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

Jack Wilson, 1st VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Janet Riemer, 2nd VP
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: jriemer@tiger.junc.net

Linda Owens, 3rd VP
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: lowens4@juno.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

Esther Edwards Wells, Immediate Past President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com

**Dates for
Omaha 2000 Convention have changed.
New dates to appear in
November/December Issue.**

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Was it hot enough and dry enough in your part of the world during the summer?

I know that some of our members in the east and New England states have had unusually hot weather and also an absence of rain. Our part of Texas has had a number of days over 100 degrees but it was mid July before the hot days arrived. That was a month later than last year, plus we had rain periodically. I only had to turn on the sprinkler system a couple of time until late July. Hopefully, with fall here the weather will cool and and your African violets will flourish for the fall shows.

The minutes of the AVSA Annual Membership Meeting are on page 13 of this issue.

I have been in contact with the Omaha chairpeople and they are moving along nicely with their plans. Be sure and start making plans to attend. Just from the little I know of their plans, I feel that this is one of those conventions you will not want to miss!

Since fall is here Christmas can't be too far away. Be sure to look over the items offered by AVSA when doing your shopping. These items make nice gifts for violet friends. The lovely ornaments, featuring the two top winners from the Sacramento convention, are still available. We received them a little late last year but there is plenty of time to get them for this Christmas. A membership to AVSA is always a nice gift and there is always the possibility that it could bring a new person into our fold permanently.

Are you aware that the African Violet Stamp-First Day Cover is still available? This is an excellent gift for a stamp collector or for those who collect African violet memorabilia. Please contact the AVSA office for prices of items not shown on the order form.

I have stated again and again that there is no better place than AVSA to gain dear friends. Proof of that came again recently. Paula's mother passed away June 1 and cards and calls were received from AVSA friends from across the land. Your cards and calls were greatly appreciated. Nothing helps to heal the heart more than words of kindness from caring friends.

I am sure Bill Lyons joins me in thanking all of you for your contributions for the new copy machine. I am sure the AVSA office staff appreciates it more than anyone! Feel free to keep the contributions coming. We have the machine in place because it was really needed. However, sometimes when we urgently need something, we may have to borrow from the general fund, if enough money has not been collected for the full price of an item. This money is paid back from your contributions.

Take care of yourselves and your plants and we will visit again soon.



Bill Foster
AVSA President

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

Occasionally we hear that some members are concerned because their AVM has arrived much later than other members of their local club. Please note that all subscription copies of the African Violet Magazine are mailed from Beaumont, TX, at the same time. When they leave Beaumont as bulk mail, they are sent to postal centers around the country, where they are divided and sent to other postal centers for distribution. If you are in the same zip code as other members who always seem to get their AVM before you do, it might be a good idea to check with your local post office to find out why your magazine comes later.

If your AVM continues to be late, you may want to give the AVSA office a call and find out how much more that it would cost to mail it with First Class postage.

Some members who do not receive the AVM before the first of the month have been calling the office, wanting the AVSA secretaries to read them the first week or so of information from the Moon Sign Planting Guide. Although some times at the AVSA office are slower than others are, this is very time-consuming. Our information comes from Llewellyn Publishing's Moon Sign Book for 1999. To order your own copy of the Moon Sign Book, please write to Llewellyn Publishing, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383. The ISBN number is 1-56718-953-9, and the book retails for \$6.95.

Our Advertising Manager, **Judith Carter**, is moving soon to Oklahoma. Her new address will appear in the next issue of the AVM.

Thanks to all of you who send in articles for the African Violet Magazine. I understand there may be some who would like to share their growing experiences and ideas with all of us, but may not consider themselves accomplished writers. Don't let this stop you! Some of our most interesting articles came to me handwritten on notebook paper! The important thing is that we utilize the forum provided by this magazine to share ideas and information.

We have some very interesting articles this time. Board Member **Barbara Pershing** and her husband, **Rex**, provide detailed instructions for building an "On-demand Pump Watering System". With seven light stands in three different rooms, Barbara needed an easier way to water her plants, and Rex solved her problem. Another Board Member and longtime contributor to this magazine, **Mary Ann Switzer**, shares her "Favorite Tools and Gadgets". Illustrations are included with both of these interesting articles.

In answer to so many questions about potting techniques, former AVSA President, **Anne Tinari**, shows us how "Proper Potting Pays Dividends" on page 45.

In our three Showcase sections, treat yourself to more beautiful photographs taken by AVSA Official Photographer, **Winston J. Goretsky**.

Dale Martens, "Gesneri-Advice" columnist, shares a very interesting report by **Elizabeth Glazebrook**, AVSA member from Australia, of a Gesneriad expedition she joined in Brazil (page 20).

Word does get around in this society! I mentioned to a few folks an experience we had in the office, trying cat flea collars for pest control, and I've received several calls asking for details.

THIS IS IN NO WAY AN ENDORSEMENT OR THE RESULTS OF A SCIENTIFIC STUDY!

A few months ago, Jenny and I both noticed that some of our plants weren't looking very good. (Now, this is not all that unusual with the plants in my office.) I did notice though, that a couple of them were droopy and had plenty of water, so that wasn't the problem. One is a favorite from the Florida convention, and it just wasn't doing well at all. Jenny and I figured we had some kind of pest problem.

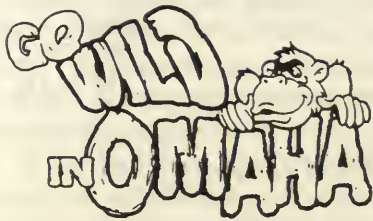
I suffer from allergies year-round (this part of Texas is quite possibly the Mold and Mildew Capitol of the World), and I'm always reluctant to use any chemicals in a closed space. I remembered that my friend in California, **Lola Rossi**, had good results with cat flea collars, so Jenny and I decided to give them a try.

We bought several collars, stretched them to activate the pesticide, and cut them into 1 1/2 inch pieces. These were placed around the bottom of the plants in Jenny's light stand, and on the sides of the shelves in my windows. I hung a piece on the edge of my favorite plant's pot - not touching the soil, but hanging off the side. (I was desperate!)

We were surprised by what we found the next morning! There were little piles of tiny dead bugs around the bottoms of the pots! Most of them in my growing area were around my favorite plant! We don't really know what they were - we were disgusted and wiped them into the trash can.

We did have mites in one of the stands downstairs, so as an added precaution, Jenny drenched her plants with Knox-Out. I figured the flea collars were doing a fine job, and I stuck with just them. All of our plants are looking fine now, and in a couple of months we'll replace the collars with new ones.

Remember, this is not the result of a scientific study, and we don't even know what kind of bugs those were, but I'm glad that Lola told me about the flea collars.



What Is Wild About Omaha?

If you ever thought Omaha was tame, you have a surprise coming!

Omaha has a WILD Jungle! Lodged within the world-renowned Henry Doorly Zoo, the Lied Jungle is a gigantic two level indoor rainforest where you can stroll among the plants and animals that live there. This fascinating structure has drawn the attention of architects and tourists from around the world.

Omaha has a WILD history! On the edge of the frontier, Omaha witnessed the opening of the West with the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail, and the first transcontinental railroad, all marking their paths through the area. Nearby Nebraska City reflects those early days with one of the oldest cabins in the state and a possible site of a stop on the Underground Railroad. The Durham Western Heritage Museum focuses on Omaha and railroad history, while nearby reconstructed Fort Atkinson

helps you experience what Lewis and Clark saw in their travels.

Omaha celebrates the WILD blue yonder of the United States Air Force who has long been stationed in the strategic center of the nation near Omaha. The SAC (Strategic Air Command) Museum will thrill veterans and children alike with actual military airplanes housed in a gigantic hangar that allows visitors to understand our nation's air history.

Omaha is proud to be home to Boys Town, where the boys (and girls) aren't WILD, but instead have found a new sense of worth, of security and of the meaning of life. The campus features gardens and chapels that will leave you with an understanding of the great goal Father Flanagan had in his ministry.

Omaha has a WILD time waiting for you next June. Come to Omaha and Go Wild! Don't forget to bring your entries for the Show.

Dear AVSA,

Don and I would like to thank AVSA, Esther Wells, Past President, and the Awards Committee for honoring us with the Bronze Medal Award at the 1999 Convention in Houston, Texas. We deeply regret that we were unable to be there to accept the award in person.

Amy Lackner accepted on our behalf and presented the award to us at the AVS of Minnesota Spring Awards Luncheon on May 11, 1999. We thank all AVSA members and friends everywhere for your support over the years. Hope to see many of you in Omaha, 2000.

Very sincerely yours,
Don and Jean Ness

MASTER LIST EDITORIAL CORRECTION

Optimara Little Azurite (7915)
7/6/93 (Holtkamp) is a **Miniature**,
not a semiminiature as published.

NOTICE: JUDGES

If your name is **not** included
in the list of Judges in the center
insert of this issue, check first to see
if your AVSA Membership and
Judge's Certificate are current
before contacting the
Shows & Judges Committee.



Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

email: Patter257@aol.com

I hope everyone had a super summer. Winding down into fall, we have a prime opportunity to send our violets into winter in great condition. The hot, searing summer is over and our violets are ready to put on a burst of growth, making this an excellent time to transplant, leach, repot, etc. It's also a good idea to put down leaves which will produce plantlets ready for potting in mid-winter. By next summer you'll have blooming plants. Finally, don't forget to order new plant material from AVSA Commercial Members. Some will be clearing out old stock and offering great buys.

SWEATING THE SMALL STUFF!

There's a very fine book written by Dr. Richard Carlson entitled, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff (and it's all small stuff). While this wonderful book is chock full of life-wisdom, I take issue with Dr. Carlson when it comes to growing African violets. The entire point of this column will be if you want grow small ones well you must "sweat the small stuff": temperature, humidity, grooming, cleanliness, and propagation.

Let's begin with temperature. Violets are comfortable in the same temperatures you are! When you're hot (above 75 F or 25 C), they're hot, when you're cold (below 65 F or 20 C) they're cold, and care must be taken if violets are grown at either extreme. If conditions become too hot, fertilizer must either be stopped or given at a lower rate. If not, microbes in the soil become more active making nitrogen more readily available which can damage the roots. Changing to a more "gentle" form of fertilizer, such as fish emulsion, is also recommended. Another recommendation is to run a fan over the plants increasing air circulation. Like human beings, this allows the plants to "transpire" more, tolerating heat better. Pests become more active when it's warmer, too, so keep an eye out for increased populations.

It has generally been thought that violets grow best

when temperatures are around 72 F (22 C), but consider this: several years ago my club grew as a project plant, "Rob's Heat Wave." One member with an exceptional reputation grows under very warm conditions with temperatures between 72 F - 78 F, even in winter. Another grower of equal renown grew his at 60 F - 65 F. The difference between the plants was striking: the plant grown under warm conditions grew more open, showing the petioles, and had smaller, less colorful blooms. The plant grown cool was nicely compact and had larger, more colorful blooms. Growing cool will cause your plants to grow slower, but overall, they will be more compact. Another advantage is that growing within the "cool range" will hold your blooms longer and you'll enjoy them over a much longer period of time.

THEORIES OF RELATIVITY: HUMIDITY, THAT IS!

Closely linked to the concept of temperature is humidity, and again, just as you like it "comfortable" so do your small ones. With increased temperatures, the air can become more humid, with decreased temperature, air is less humid, and so it is in the micro growing area of your plant room. The cooler the temperatures, the more you'll have to struggle to keep humidity up. The warmer it is, the greater the struggle to keep it down.

African violets prefer a relative humidity of 40-60%. Going below that standard, their growth will be slower and less "lush." Blooms will be smaller and have a tendency to "blast." Going above it, you extend a "warm" invitation to disease as it flourishes under high humidity conditions. To address these problems, you might use humidifiers and dehumidifiers. Additional ideas for raising humidity are pebble trays, where shallow containers are filled with pebbles and the plants are set on these. Water is poured over the pebbles and allowed to evaporate, raising the humidity in the imme-

diate area around the plants. If you use matting, you're already well aware of the benefits: not only do you get even, quick watering, but the additional benefit of increasing humidity. This is especially true for the small ones as they sit closer to the matting.

If too much humidity is a problem, constant vigilance for pathogens and diseases such as mildew and botrytis is necessary. Maintaining good air circulation will help here, too!

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION . . .

A very good friend and superb violet grower, Helen Barrett of Wichita, Kansas, is a woman of supreme organization, purpose and good practice! Once a year, she and her devoted husband, Warren, clean her plant room using a 10% Clorox solution on everything: walls, trays, shelves, floors, light fixtures, etc. When potting up, grooming, etc., that same solution is used repeatedly on all tools. Instead of letting problems arise and then addressing them, they meticulously use preventive measures to thwart their development. We all can learn from this.

Keep your violets clean: remove all old, damaged blooms and foliage. Keep pots and shelves clean and free from debris. Wash your violets regularly: they love having the dust that collects so easily on their hairy foliage removed. To do this, take your violet to a large sink where a mister filled with warm water is ready. Tilt your violet to the side so the water runs away from the center of the plant, working from the center outward so all debris is washed away from the center. When finished dab any large residual droplets from the foliage, especially the crown. If you're more ambitious, give them the "super-deluxe" wash. Using two misters, one filled with warm water and a few drops of gentle dish washing detergent, mist one plant lightly. Move on to a second plant, then a third. By the time you've completed the third plant, go back to the first and using the second spray mister of warm, clear water, rinse the soapy water off. The advantage here is the soap acts as an emulsifying agent, and is better able to bind and remove dust and other residue than water alone. Continue working through the three plants until you're fin-

ished. Then move on to three more. With your small ones this process should go fairly quickly!

It is my experience that putting the plants back under lights after washing them will not harm them IF large droplets have been removed. However caution is encouraged if putting them into direct or even strong, indirect natural light. Wait until they're dry or spotting or other damage may occur. Placing the plants under gently moving air from a fan will also help dry them quickly and prevent damage.

CLEARLY PROPAGATION

For every grower there will be a different method of propagation. This is the method which works best for me and is ideally suited to the small ones: save or purchase clear plastic salad bar, bakery or sandwich containers. They should have relatively tight fitting lids and should be washed with mild soap and water if previously used. Fill the bottom part with 3/4 to 1 inch of your regular African violet potting soil. Insert the prepared leaf into the soil. When all leaves have been placed, close the lid tightly and using a permanent ink pen label the lid immediately above each leaf with the cultivar name. Set under lights with the rest of your violets. Within 6-8 weeks plantlets are coming up and some may even be ready for transplanting. Note: the tighter the lid, the less you'll need to watch it. They'll need no extra water unless the lid is loose or there is a hole in the plastic somewhere. Many people have reported great luck using this procedure.

A RECOMMENDATION

'Gleeful Elf' is one of Hortense Pittman's 1998 introductions, and what a great little plant it is! It has double dark blue blooms with a strong white edge above dark, very symmetrical, very plain foliage that stays small. The best thing about this wonderful little plant is it simply does not know how not to bloom. If some violets are "shy" bloomers, 'Gleeful Elf' is gregarious! Next time we'll take a small diversion and address the wonderful world of miniature and semi-miniature trailers. See you then!

NEW WAY TO GROW THOSE STUBBORN BLOOMERS

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

In 1995 all the members of the Glenview/North Shore AVS were given the club project plant 'Pixie Runaround' to enter in the 1996 show.

I tried everything to get this mini trailer to bloom, but nothing worked. The plant refused all coaxing, so eventually, it went into the garbage.

Only one of our members entered 'Pixie Runaround' in the show, but it didn't have any blooms, either.

Many months later, a member brought in his plant in full

bloom. 'Pixie Runaround' is the cutest little plant with bell shaped blossoms.

What was astounding to our members is that the plant was still in the original plastic sleeve! It had never been removed. The plant is still in the sleeve and still blooms like crazy!

The next time I have a plant that just won't bloom, it's going to live in a plastic sleeve forever!

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512
email: robsviolet@aol.com



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601
email: dot3joe@earthlink.net

It's been a busy year. It seems that Olive and I have been working nonstop for the last few months. There's a show to attend nearly every weekend, then plants to ship out when we return home. One reason we enjoy attending the AVSA convention show every spring is that it gives us an excuse to take a "working vacation", often the only kind we get. We take an extra week to drive home, seeing the sights along the way. Being "plant nuts" means stopping at every nursery, garden, and commercial grower along the way. We always keep the listing of AVSA and American Orchid Society commercials in the car, and stop at every state's tourist information office looking for interesting gardens to visit. If you have the time and inclination to drive, and are planning to attend next year's convention in Omaha, you can do the same. We're already making plans.

Because we're so busy, we don't have time to personally answer questions mailed (or e-mailed) to us, though we do read all of our correspondence. If you need a personal response to your question, it's best to call us during business hours. We don't mind talking while we work. That said, I can be reached via e-mail at robsviolet@aol.com or through our web-site at www.robsviolet.com. The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

QUESTION: *Several of my violets have developed abnormal growth patterns. Flowers are small, do not open fully and/or are deformed. Flower stalks are short. Center growth is stunted, leaves are short and not fully developed. Centers are not gray, but some leaves have splotches or varied shades of green. The flowers are the main problem. I do have thrips. Could they be causing the damage?*

ANSWER: It's likely that they are. Thrips can deform blossoms, mark them, and lead to them fading or dropping prematurely. Though they prefer, and are most easily seen on

the blossoms, they spend a good deal of their life on other parts of the plant and will migrate there when the blossoms are removed. This is one reason why thrips can be so difficult to deal with. Removing the infected blossoms is necessary to control them but, when this is done, other symptoms can arise elsewhere.

We've found that when we've disbudded violets with a known infestation, the plant can exhibit the symptoms described by this grower. Thrips will feed on the foliage, leaving small, brown "freckles". The center growth also may not develop normally which, in extreme cases, might lead one to falsely believe they are dealing with a cyclamen mite infestation. Infected leaves might also become more brittle and curl under at the edges.

The best medicine is a preventative one. We go through all of our plants on a daily basis, picking off and discarding any blossom that looks the least bit suspicious. We don't even wait to actually see thrips to suspect we have them. Cleanliness is the first, and easiest, step. On occasion, though rarely, we do have to spray. There are a number of chemicals that can be used. We have personal experience with Avid and Knox-Out. Avid, in particular, seems to be effective, and is widely used by many commercial and greenhouse growers to control both thrips and mites. Unfortunately, like most effective chemicals, it is toxic, can be very costly, and is hard to find in small quantities. One less toxic alternative that we know to have gotten favorable reviews by some growers is BioNeem, though we don't have any first-hand experience with this product.

QUESTION: *A white crust has appeared on the soil surface of my plants, as well as "brownish crystals" on the leaves in the center. The crown of one plant has rotted. I wick-water and use a soil mix containing one-third perlite.*

ANSWER: These are some of the symptoms of a violet that is being kept too wet. Though convenient, wicking is no better than any other method of watering. Unless done properly, violets will be no better off than if watered by some other means. Judging by the volume of phone calls we get, improper wick-watering practices is one of the most common problems among hobbyists.

When wick-watering, it is most important to use a very light soil mix. I would recommend a soilless (no topsoil) mix containing close to 50% perlite. If the perlite is particularly coarse, or vermiculite is also used, somewhat less perlite might be necessary. Vermiculite retains more water than does perlite, though, so it's not a perfect substitute. The rule of thumb is: the wetter you plan on keeping the soil, the lighter (more porous) it should be. To illustrate, plants grown hydroponically aren't grown in soil at all, but in water alone, with rocks or pebbles used merely to provide support and stability to the plant and roots.

It is also especially important when wick watering not to pot plants into too large a pot. If the plant's root system isn't able to entirely fill the pot, then the excess soil will remain excessively wet and can lead to root rot.

We always top water more sparingly, those plants that have just been repotted and root pruned, and those which have been potted into much larger pots. When I wick-watered, I found that plants did not fare nearly as well immediately after repotting. Give the new roots two or three weeks to develop before resuming watering by wicks or mats.

As for the white crust on the soil surface, this is another disadvantage of wick, or other methods where water is supplied from the bottom of the pot. When wicking, water is fed into the soil through the bottom of the pot via a wick, then works its way up to the top soil surface. Because of this, anything in the water will also work its way to the soil surface and, if not consumed by the plant, remain there. This crust is either (or both) excess fertilizer salts or minerals found in the water used. Usually this is only unsightly, but if ignored, can become a problem, possibly burning and/or rotting off petioles or even the plant's crown. Because of this, it is a good practice to regularly repot plants to eliminate the excess minerals and salts with the old soil. Occasional leaching of the soil is also recommended. Top water plants thoroughly so that minerals and salts are washed through and out of the pot bottom.

QUESTION: *Is it better to remove a damaged leaf, spoiling symmetry, or to keep it?*

ANSWER: If the plant is being exhibited, this is a judgment call. Points can be lost for both gaps in symmetry, and for damaged leaves. If it is not a showplant, it becomes a trade-off between the appearance of the plant and the plant's health. When the leaf is basically healthy, but looks unattractive, this depends, again, on whether the gap is more or

less unattractive than the leaf. If the leaf is not healthy, it should be removed. Only healthy leaves are helpful in processing energy and producing food for the plant. Removing diseased and dying leaves also reduces the chances of spreading the problem of one leaf to other areas of the plant. A clean, well-groomed plant is a healthier plant.

QUESTION: *I just acquired a violet from a relative that had not been repotted in quite some time. As a result, it has developed a very long and twisted stem. Is it possible to get rid of this awful looking stem and save the plant?*

ANSWER: Yes. Normally we eliminate a violet's "neck" by repotting and covering it with fresh soil. This is done by removing some of the old soil from the bottom of the root ball, lowering the plant in the pot (not necessarily a bigger pot), and adding fresh soil to the top of the pot, burying the neck. Once covered with soil, the neck will eventually produce new roots. If violets are repotted on a regular basis, about every 5-6 months, necks never have the chance to become long and twisted like the one described above.

When a neck becomes this long, repotting is no longer possible, since all, or nearly all, of the root ball would need to be removed to lower the plant enough in the pot to be able to bury the neck. In this case, drastic measures need to be taken. Remove all but the healthiest 4-6 leaves in the center of the plant. Then cut away and discard the entire root ball and old soil, leaving only the fresh, center, growth and perhaps 1/4" to 1/8" of the stem.

Fill a 2 1/2" or 3" pot with moist soil. Press the plant crown into the soil, being sure that its short remaining stem is firmly anchored. Enclose in a clear plastic bag and place in a bright (not very bright or hot) location. In about a month the plant will be rooted and can be removed from the bag – like new!

QUESTION: *What is a "chimera", and why are they so much more expensive? Are they more difficult to grow?*

ANSWER: A chimera is a plant, due to its genetic make-up, which can only be propagated by suckers to produce an identical (in foliage and blossom) plant. In the violet hobby, the term usually refers to varieties having pinwheel striped blossoms. Identical blooming plants of these varieties can only be produced when propagated by suckers. When done by leaf cuttings, the plants produced usually will bloom without the pinwheel pattern, and in a solid color. Because propagation by sucker is more costly in terms of time and growing space, and produces fewer plants than by leaf cutting, commercial growers pass along these additional costs in the form of higher prices. Once successfully propagated, these varieties are no more difficult to grow than are other varieties.

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.

VARIEGATION IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Sue Hoffner

Virus can cause variegation in plants. This is the case with the color streaking in tulip flowers. However, on gesneriads, in particular African violets it is a mutation.

In the wild variegated plants are inferior and don't survive. In cultivation they are given ideal conditions and thrive.

The pigments in the individual cells of the leaf cause leaf coloring. Green coloring, chlorophyll, is in the cytoplasm, (sap) of the leaves. Chlorophyll masks other pigments which show up, when chlorophyll is lacking this causes variegation.

Combinations of the pigments give different color. Variegation in gesneriads can show chartreuse, cream, pink, red, white, and yellow.

HISTORY

1946 - variegated sports documented

1953 - 'Frosty', a white single/blue eye was developed by Ethel Champion.

1959 - Tommie Lou Oden grew a variegated sport of 'White Pride'. She grew it through nine generations to prove it would stay variegated as early variegates were very unstable.

1967 - 'Tommie Lou' was registered. It was white with a very light orchid center. It had dark green foliage with a feathered white edge.

Most variegates today trace back to 'Tommie Lou', which was considered sterile and was difficult to use in hybridization. Later it was successfully crossed with 'Purple Gold' to give

'Happy Harold', 'Lindy Lou', and 'Top Dollar'. Later efforts produced 'Tiger' and 'Fisherman's Paradise'. From these plants a multitude of variegated plants have been produced.

VARIEGATION TYPES

There are 3 different types of variegation in African violets.

Lillian Jarrett or Mosaic

These plants have small flecks over the whole leaf. 'Lillian Jarrett' was registered in 1961 but three years later it mutated to mosaic variegation.

Champion or crown variegation

Most variegation on these plants occurs near the crown of the plant. Most crown variegation is yellow in color and is very vulnerable to temperature and fertilizer.

Tommie Lou

Variegation occurs mostly along the leaf margins. The base pattern is usually cream/green but it can be white, yellow, tan and pink.

Many Tommie Lou types are relatively resistant to high temperatures and high nitrogen.

Reprinted from the African Violet News, Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Australia

REFLECTIONS ON THE '99 CONVENTION

by Malinda Westerlund • Ballwin, MO

What a delightful and informative Houston '99 convention! Not only did I renew old friendships, but I found new friends; each one who enjoys and loves the African violet.

As an elementary teacher I observed the judging process at the convention. I was not a judge, but a clerk. I made some observations I would like to pass on to you.

Showing plants at any show, whether it is local, regional, or national should always be a learning experience for the exhibitor. It makes such a difference to the exhibitor if there are a few words from the judges to explain why he/she received the particular ribbon. This is especially true for the Red or White ribbons. Before I go further, let me explain I received a blue ribbon on my entry. This is not a complaint article!

As an educator, we are reminded that when a child produces an answer, a paper, or accomplishes a task, we as teachers need to find something good about that answer, that paper, or that task before we begin our criticism. It is true that some things children produce are in need of great help! However, educators have found that students listen and learn more when

the teacher prefaces his/her remarks with a positive comment.

Most of the entry tags I looked at had nothing written on them to let the exhibitor know why the plant received that particular ribbon. I can understand the time problem in an 800 entry show, but I think we need to rethink why we are having a show. If it is only to find the Best in Class or Best in Show, then things should remain as they are. However, if we want to promote growing African violets in the United States and promote growing violets for the love of violets, then there needs to be serious thought about what we as a group want our shows to promote.

May I make a suggestion as an educator as to how to give the exhibitor a positive comment and constructive criticisms? It does not take a wordy paragraph to give a positive comment! But the exhibitor is then ready to read a brief criticism and to learn from that criticism. Yes, it will take a little longer in the judging process, but it will reap dividends for AVSA, give the exhibitor some positive help, and that exhibitor will return home with excitement about trying harder to make his/her plants reach higher into the show plant arena.



Telltale Leaves



Leaf Symmetry: Do you have African violets that never have leaves growing completely symmetrical, with each leaf overlapping each other and not even a glimpse of the soil or the pot between them? Do the leaves rarely grow level? Do they stick up and bend all over and around the pot?

Don't despair, there are reasons, not necessarily your fault. Could be that lovely plant you have was never bred to have perfect leaf symmetry. Perhaps it was hybridized purely for the flowers and that was what the hybridizer had in mind when he did his work. If he is working with plants that have leaves that are heavily quilted, scalloped, ovate or girl leaves, symmetry is virtually impossible. If this is so, then make the best of the plant by enjoying the flowers.

However, if your plant has flat plain leaves with a minimum of quilting there is no reason why the plant should not have good leaf symmetry. Of course, along with symmetry come unmarked correctly shaped leaves, the largest in the outside row to the smallest in the center of the plant. Good culture and grooming right from the start of the plant's growth should achieve near perfection. If you do not have this, then somewhere along the line you have not met the plant's requirements. So read on because some of your likely problems may be included.

The most likely causes of a plant not having normally arranged leaves are errors in culture, light, fertilizer, temperature and natural accidents and in some cases, insects.

Choice: Let's deal with the easiest problem to remedy first. This begins with choice of plant when potting up seedlings for leaf propagation. Pick the little plants that are nicely compact, not straggly with some big and some small leaves.

Accidents: When potting up, remove small leaves or side shoots, with care. A little pin prick on a leaf will be a crater when the plant is full size. Take care when watering and don't get spots on leaves, as these could leave marks.

Light: Always remember that all plants have different requirements depending on leaf color. In general terms, the darker the leaf the more light it will absorb. In theory, dark leaves should be at the ends of the shelves and graded toward the center of the shelf are the light, then the variegated, leaf varieties. But sorry to say this does not always work. It's a matter of knowing your own plants. Too little light and the leaves will grow long petioles and reach toward the light source. Too much light and the leaves will bend away from the light.

Extreme excess light can cause the new leaves to crowd

the center of the plant and in some cases cause the leaf edges to burn. Do the small leaves in your plant's center never seem to grow out to a perfect shape because of over-crowding? It is good management to have the fluorescent tubes at least 12 to 14 inches above the shelf so that when the plants are fully grown they are around 8 inches from the light source. It is easy to stand small plants on something, raising them to achieve the eight-inch gap. Remember miniature and semiminatures prefer to be 6 inches from the light source.

Fertilizers: This is the trickier subject. Long petioles, marked leaves, deformed leaves, tight centers, burnt leaves, a trio of small leaves can all be caused by errors in the fertilization program. In most cases it is possible to analyze the problem and find the cause. The knowledge gained will help you not to repeat the same mistake. Don't forget that the leaves are the engine room of the plant; good leaves, good plant.

Long petioles and open growth of the whole plant: Do your plants have leaves that don't overlap and grow long petioles, leaving gaps so that the soil can be seen between the leaves? Is the foliage all soft and floppy, and the plant looks as if it could do with a good drink? Does the foliage all flop down, petioles able to bend without breaking? Are the flowers drooped down on the foliage? A high nitrogen fertilizer can cause all of these symptoms. Check the NPK reading.

Too much nitrogen (N) and too little phosphorous (P) in the N.P.K. mix of the fertilizer will cause this problem. Change fertilizer to a lower nitrogen (N) figure. Also check the amount of light it receives.

Tight center and brittle foliage and flower stems: This is a common problem. The leaves are bunched up in the center of the plant causing deformity and damage to the small leaves. This problem is allied to brittle foliage and most parts will easily break off when the plant is groomed. Giving the plant fertilizer that is too strong, lacking nitrogen with an excess of phosphorous, can cause this condition. Again, check the N.P.K. mix of the fertilizer. Switch to a fertilizer of higher nitrogen value and less phosphorous. These symptoms may also be a result of too much light.

Keep a careful check on the plant once you have made your culture adjustment; some improvement should be apparent in a couple of weeks.

Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the AVS of South Australia

Shows and Judges



Billie Golla
AVSA Schedule Approver
10 N. Scott Drive
Broomfield, CO 80020
(303) 635-2550

Because Bill Foster is now serving AVSA as President, as well as Chairman of the Shows & Judges Committee, other members of the Committee will appear here as guest columnists.

I hope all of you enjoyed the convention in Houston as much as I did. What a beautiful show and the entertainment Friday and Saturday nights was outstanding.

Some of the topics that were discussed at the Judges Breakfast, Teachers Breakfast, and the Shows and Judges committee meeting were:

Q. *Could we offer the Senior Judges exam on disk?*

A. The Senior Judges Exam is now available on diskette. Of course, we also still offer the exam as we always have. There is no extra charge and the diskette is compatible with most computers.

Q. *In a recent show there was discussion about a plant that received a blue ribbon but was not awarded best in class when it was the only plant in the class. The judges thought it should not be best in class because it scored a low blue.*

A. Best in class should have been given! The Handbook states that if a plant is awarded a blue ribbon it is eligible for the best in class award and should automatically receive it if it is the only one in the class.

Q. *May a plant in a novel container be best in show?*

A. The likelihood of this happening is remote, but it could. The plant would have to be rejudged as a specimen plant.

Q. *In a show, mobiles had ornate backgrounds. Should points be taken off?*

A. Yes, if it detracts. We should learn more about mobiles if we are going to judge them. (The same goes for other design classes too!) On the subject of mobiles, teachers please emphasize that mobiles are flower arrangements. In a show, the final panel of judges was undecided whether the best mobile could be considered for best design in show. Yes it can – it is an arrangement.

Q. *A few clubs have asked if we could have a class for gesneriads in an unusual or novel container.*

A. This was discussed and the consensus was that we would not have it at this time. One of the main reasons was that it would need to be in the gesneriad section and the AGGS scale of points for this class is very difficult. Also, there was not much interest in having this class, in fact, some would even prefer not to have this class for violets as they feel that inferior plants are sometimes used.

Q. *Bill received a request from a member that we change our method of determining the expiration date on judges certificates. The suggestion was to extend the date three years from the date on the certificate they are holding at the time they take the exam. For instance a student takes an exam 3/20/97 which has an expiration date of 3/20/00.*
(continued on bottom of page 13)

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. ANNUAL MEETING

April 10, 1999 • Houston, Texas

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America was called to order by Third Vice President, Jack Wilson, at 2:55 PM in the Richmond Room of the Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas. The Invocation was given by Kent Stork followed the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was observed for those members who are ill or who have passed away this past year. Jack Wilson presented the President, Esther Edwards Wells.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, reported a quorum was present.

President Wells introduced Christine (Chili) Sanders, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, as Parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary, Sue Ramser, read the Standing Rules for the Annual Meeting and they were adopted.

President Wells appointed Bev Promersberger as Chairman of the Committee to Approve the Minutes, with Jo Anne Martinez and Patricia Sutton as members. Ron Davidson will serve as Timekeeper. Linda Owens, Member of the 1998 Committee to Approve the Minutes, reported the minutes were approved.

Elinor Skelton, Resolutions Chairman, presented the Courtesy Resolution, which is attached. The Resolution was adopted.

Bev Promersberger congratulated the following: Nova Scotia and Ontario, Canada; Hong Kong, Japan, and Taiwan; Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia. All clubs in these areas have submitted their affiliate information for the AVSA web site. 231 of 310 affiliates have completed the affiliate information for the web site. 70 or 80 affiliates have incomplete information on the web site. Bev encouraged all affiliates to check the web site and list their affiliate information.

Charles Wells, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following report: President - Bill Foster of Texas; First Vice President - Jack Wilson of Virginia; Second Vice President - Janet Riemer of New Jersey; Third Vice President - Linda Owens of Ohio; Treasurer - Meredith Hall of Texas; Secretary - Sue Ramser

(continued from page 12)

Then the student takes another exam 3/1/99 which would normally show an expiration date of 3/1/02. Instead of this, the member suggests we add the three years to the previous certificate thus showing an expiration date of 3/1/03. This member's reasoning was that it is sometimes difficult for a judge to find a school.

A. The committee's thoughts are that this would cause confusion in keeping track of when the member was eligible to take the Senior Exam or when they were eligible to become a Master Judge. We believe that if a person is really serious about being a judge and advancing that they will find a way to get to a school every three years.

Q. Should the comment "immature" be written on a card when a plant is small?

A. No. Any standard that is 8" or above should not be penalized for size.

We would like to welcome Georgette Jolivet as a new member of the Shows and Judges Committee. Also, Eleanor Skelton announced the new Master Judges: Barbara Strock, Alabama; Jane Webber, New York; Bob Green, Florida; Meredith Hall, Texas; Anne Jantzen, California; Linda Newmann, Ohio; Laura Shannon, Pennsylvania; Doris Brownlie, Canada; Dodie Whitaker, Florida. Congratulations to all!

of Texas; Directors: Helen Blanton of Missouri; Barbara Pershing of Iowa; Edna Rourke of Connecticut; Alice Easter of Pennsylvania; Georgette Jolivet of Arizona. No nominations were received from the floor. The slate of officers was elected by voice vote.

President Wells announced that the installation will take place at the banquet.

President Wells recognized Outgoing Second Vice President Lynn Lombard and retiring Directors Doris Brownlie, Alyce Droege, Doreen Lay, Pat Richards, and Catherine Thompson.

Pat Richards, Convention Vice Chairman of the 2000 Convention, on behalf of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, extended the invitation to the 54th Convention to be held, June 11-18, in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is "Go Wild in Omaha".

The plaques that the Booster Fund secured, to honor Lizetta Hamilton and Nell Sue Tyson were displayed. The plaques will be placed in the Beaumont office.

A fax was received from Anne and Frank Tinari, who were unable to attend, congratulating the newly-elected officers and directors.

Meredith Hall presented Bill and Paul Foster yellow roses of appreciation from the Texas Wranglers.

President Wells announced that the Open Forum and the announcement of the winners of the raffles will be conducted immediately after the close of the Annual Meeting.

There was no further business to come before the Annual Meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Sue Ramser, Secretary

*COMMITTEE TO APPROVE
Bev Promersberger, Chairman
Jo Ann Martinez
Patricia Sutton*

It seems there is still some confusion about the cost of the AVSA Collection rosettes. They are \$5.00 for EACH SET. One set consists of a gold first place and a purple second place, and there is a set for standards and one for mini/semiminis. Most clubs would need both sets making a total of \$10.00. Of course, if you have a commercial section you would need the two sets for that too, making a total of \$20.00. If you have one or more rosettes left over from a previous show you may get only what you need at \$2.50 each. However, if you only need one, the minimum would be \$3.00 in order to cover postage. *Please make checks payable to AVSA - not me.* If you do not need any rosettes but only need the paperwork then please send the \$3.00 to help with postage and handling.

Please send TWO copies of your show schedule so I may have a copy for my records and PLEASE send at least two months in advance as I do sometimes go on vacation for 2-3 weeks and if you wait until a month or less before your show to send your schedules it could mean that you won't get your packet on time. I know that there are sometimes circumstances beyond your control and that's okay. Most clubs do all of the above and I thank you. I'm really enjoying reading the schedules from the different parts of the country, including a few in French. Now that's a real challenge!

Please note my change of address. I've been on the move quite a bit the last few years. It is my plan, though, that this will be the last one for some time to come. Famous last words.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

I am happy to report some news concerning the wild *Saintpaulia* species. Charlotte Lindqvist of the New York Botanical Garden shared some slides from a recent collecting expedition to the Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania. One of the wild African violets in the slides is clearly a specimen of *Saintpaulia pusilla*. This miniature species plant with bicolor blue and white flowers is not currently found in cultivation and it was unclear if it still existed in the wild. The slides show that a population of this species still exists. Perhaps if the proper collection permits can be obtained from the Tanzania government, specimens of this species will eventually become available for collectors and hybridizers.

Q: Is it more difficult to get minis and semis to produce seed pods? I have tried a few times with no results, although my crosses on standards seem to take with no problems.

A: I don't know that minis and semis are any more difficult to work with in hybridizing than are standards, so your crosses should take. I'd suggest that you keep trying as it might just be a matter of the number of attempts. You might also try raising the humidity around the flowers after pollination by keeping the plants in a terrarium or humidity dome. I've found that successful pollination is often dependent on the humidity level. For example, when I lived in Oklahoma, which has a fairly dry climate, I often had to pollinate on rainy days to get the crosses to take. Since many of our minis and semis seem to grow better with additional humidity, perhaps they need higher humidity levels for pollination too.

Q: How much space is needed to grow out a cross to bloom?

A: The answer to this question might be "how much space do you have?" Hybridizers soon find that having

enough space for their new babies is often at a premium. I usually try to grow a full gardening flat of seedlings from a cross. The flat can be covered with a humidity dome, which is necessary for the seedlings after they are transplanted. If I use 3 ounce plastic bathroom cups as pots, I can usually crowd 36-40 pots in one flat. This will allow me to grow enough seedlings to evaluate most crosses. Sometimes I "cheat" and plant two seedlings per pot to get a few more. I also don't throw out the remaining seedlings after transplanting. Most will survive in the germination container for several months allowing me to replace seedlings in the flat if they die or when they are culled. In this manner, I've sometimes squeezed as many as 60 or more seedlings out of a cross for evaluation.

I leave the seedlings somewhat crowded together until first bloom. This may mean moving some to another flat to minimize overcrowding. Standards and trailers take more space for growing out while minis and semis take less. Once the seedling blooms, I decide if it is a keeper or not. Those that are eliminated (which is the majority) create more space for other seedlings.

Q: What are some of the things to watch for that indicate a weak seedling, allowing one to cull the inferior results early?

A: This will depend on the nature of the cross and what one is hoping to get in the offspring. I usually transplant a mixture of strong and weak seedlings from a cross in order to get a good representation of the results. For example, if I transplant only the largest seedlings, I may miss a good miniature. On the other hand, if I want only standards, I may want to select only the largest and fastest growing seedlings. If I want strong miniatures, I wouldn't want to keep seedlings

(continued on bottom of page 15)



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
 2855 Gayle Lane
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email: jabar@foothill.net

Horseshoes & Nails?

For the want of a nail the shoe was lost, for the want of a shoe the race was lost. I think you get the picture. I would be lost if not for you, the contributors to Vintage Violets. There would be a lot of unhappy people, unhappy because they couldn't find the long lost violet friends of yesteryear. My first violet was a Double Black Cherry. I grew it for years,

joined an affiliate club and killed it dead. Ah, see what a little knowledge can do?

I receive a lot of Thank You's and bouquets from my readers and I'd like to pass them on to you. You make it all possible by sharing your collections. Keep up the good work! Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

AVSA's Most Wanted

Antique Mahogany
 Atlantic City
 Behnke Boy
 Bull's Eye
 Cashmere Pink
 Creekside Moonbeams
 Gemcraft Pink Pearl

Ginger
 Green Go
 Hortense's Zapata
 Iceberg
 Ivory Fashion
 Jazzy
 Karen Linda

Lady Constance
 Mrs. George S. duPont
 Nona Weber
 Oui Ben
 Pink Philly
 Purple Enchantment
 Purple Nautilus

Rhapsodie Roxanna
 Rosebud Trail
 Sassy Lass
 Sweet Mary
 The Redhead
 White Delaware
 White Whisper

(continued from page 14)

that sucker frequently. If I want trailers, however, plants that sucker and branch easy are highly desirable. If I want variegated offspring, I may be able to select for this trait very early and avoid seedlings that appear to be solid green. Decide what traits you want to select for in the offspring and if possible, select seedlings that have these traits. Otherwise, keep a mixture of the seedlings to get as wide a range of results as possible for evaluation.

Q: *How long does it take to tell if a seedling will be "any good"?*

A: This will depend on what traits you want the seedling to have. Some foliage traits can be selected for fairly early, before the seedlings even bloom. Flower traits, however, can only be evaluated at the time of first bloom. A promising seedling should be grown up to evaluate its full size and bloom potential. Before a seedling is released to the public, it should be grown through 3 generations of leaf cuttings (the original seedling counts as generation 1) to make sure it is reproducing

true. Only after that time, which may now be 2-3 years after the original cross was made, can a seedling be fully evaluated as being "any good". Several additional years may be needed to evaluate how the plant does in shows and if it will be named to the African Violet Honor Roll.

Q: *I have a seedling that has star shaped blooms with a unique patterning of mauve and pink color. What can I cross with this plant to maintain this flower type?*

A: I'd suggest crossing this plant to one with pink star blooms. The star shape is a recessive and should breed true when crossed with your seedling. Pink is the most recessive visible color in violets and may maintain your mauve/pink pattern. I would not recommend crossing to white flowers. While this is a recessive color, whites can have other colors as hidden recessives that may overshadow your pink/mauve pattern and prevent it from being expressed. For example, a white flower can have a trait for red flowers hidden underneath. When combined with pink, the red will be dominant and will eliminate your mauve/pink pattern.



Al & Cathy Cornibe
197 Archer Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY ARE IN BLOOM!

We started growing African violets after we were married in 1972. Not long after that, we stumbled upon our first African violet show. Although we've forgotten the names of the two show plants we bought, we still remember their blooms. One had huge, light pink blooms that were so beautiful and the other had huge, white blooms that were just spectacular.

Blooms are usually the first thing that everyone notices when they walk into an African violet show, display, or plant sale. So, it isn't surprising that the most frequently asked question is, "How can I get my violets to bloom?"

Even though African violets are capable of blooming year-round, many beginners have problems in this area. They think that there must be tricks or secrets that growers use to make their violets bloom. But, if you want your violets to bloom often, all you need to know is what violets like and dislike. By avoiding the most common problems, listed below, your violets will bloom more often throughout the year.

- not enough light
- no fertilizer, wrong fertilizer, or too much fertilizer
- over-watering or under-watering
- temperatures that are too low or too high
- cold drafts
- not enough humidity
- needs to be repotted in new soil
- pot is too large for the size or type of violet
- gas poisoning

Light: Adequate light is the most important requirement

that is needed for African violets to bloom. You can grow violets under natural light, but if you want them to bloom often, they need a location that provides them with plenty of light but not direct full sun. One of the biggest problems with natural light is that the weather controls how much light they receive. Too many cloudy, rainy days during the year can stop your violets from getting enough light for them to bloom as often as they should.

You can also grow African violets under fluorescent lights, which is how we grow ours. Unless we disbud our violets for a show, they bloom throughout the year. You don't need expensive light stands to make your African violets bloom. Al grows his under an inexpensive shop light fixture that hangs from the ceiling over his file cabinets at work. Most of the year, his lights are on 10 hours a day. Cathy grows hers on stands at home. Her lights are on 9 hours a day. The white walls, light from adjacent stands and white shelves provide additional reflected light for her violets. Timers control exactly how much light our violets receive each day. After experimenting for many years, cool-white bulbs work the best for us.

Fertilizer: If your African violets are getting enough light, but they are not blooming, you may have a fertilizer problem. Try a fertilizer with a higher middle number (such as 15-30-15 or 12-36-14) to encourage your violets to bloom. Follow the directions on the fertilizer container or use a little less than the recommended amount. There are many good fertilizers on the market, experiment to find out which one you like the best.

Too much fertilizer can damage the roots and stop your

African violets from blooming. Sometimes a beginner will make the mistake of thinking that if a 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer will make their violets bloom, then a 1/2 teaspoon will produce even more blooms. But, when it comes to fertilizers, it is better to use too little than too much.

Watering: African violets like their soil to be a little on the moist side. The stress that is caused by over-watering and under-watering can stop violets from growing and blooming. We each pick certain days of the week as our "watering days" to remind us to check our plants. Cathy's watering days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Al's are Monday and Friday. On watering days, we check each violet and water accordingly.

Temperature: The temperature in your growing area is also important if you want your African violets to bloom year-round. When the daytime and nighttime temperatures in your growing area are comfortable for you, your African violets will continue to grow and bloom regardless of the time of year. If the temperature gets too cold, their growth can slow down which can affect blooming. If the temperature gets too high, violets can stop growing and blooming.

Years ago, our furnace broke during the winter. It was so cold that we had to wear warm clothes until the repairman fixed the furnace. Cathy spent the entire time worrying about her violets. When we remodeled our home we added a wall heater in the plant room so her violets would be safer. Our family still teases Cathy that it doesn't matter what happens to us as long as her violets are okay.

Cold Drafts: Although African violets like fresh, circulating air, they do not like cold drafts. Fans, set on timers, can help you to circulate the air in your growing area and prevent powdery mildew. However, they should not be aimed directly on the plants. Violets should be grown in a location that is not subject to cold drafts from doors or windows.

Several years ago, an experienced grower asked Cathy for advice because she couldn't figure out why her African violets had stopped blooming. Cathy started asking her questions about her growing conditions and she seemed to be doing everything right. But, when Cathy asked her if a cold draft could be hitting her violets you should have seen her face. She was so happy! She realized that her violets stopped blooming after she moved them by her front door, which was a cold, drafty area.

Humidity: African violets like moisture in the air. When the humidity is too low, African violet buds often fail to open fully, and the ones that do open, wilt faster. Our violets grow faster, are healthier, and bloom more often when the humidity is between 50 - 60%. A humidity gauge is mounted on a wall in Cathy's plant room, where it can be read easily. When we need to increase our humidity, we add water to the trays under our violets. Some growers use humidifiers to increase the humidity in their growing areas.

Soil: Quite often an African violet will stop blooming and

stop growing because its soil is too old. Our violets look so much healthier and grow so much faster when we repot them at least twice a year. We always bake our soil (really a soil-less potting mix), perlite, and vermiculite in an oven for about 1 1/2 hours at 175 degrees before we use them. There are many good African violet soils on the market. In general, you need a light, loose mix that works with your watering schedule so it stays a little on the moist side.

A good time to experiment with different soils is while you are separating babies from a leaf. When you have two or three babies, of the same variety and approximately the same size, plant each one in a pot with a different soil. Give them the same amount of light, water, fertilizer, etc. As you watch them grow, you can tell which soil works the best in your environment.

Pot: African violets like to be root-bound. Beginners often make the mistake of repotting their violets into pots that are too large. As a rule-of-thumb, standards should be repotted into a pot that is one-third of the plant's diameter (for example, a 9-inch violet should be in a 3-inch pot). Miniatures and semiminiatures should be repotted into pots that are 2 1/2 inches or less to encourage them to stay small.

Gas: Most of us never think about a gas leak until we get one. We were staying in an old building while some construction was going on at our home. It was really cold and the old furnace just couldn't keep the building warm enough for our violets or us. As the violets started to go down hill and stopped looking as healthy as usual, we blamed it on the cold weather. Then Cathy noticed an odor and realized that the violets were reacting to a gas leak. Gas was escaping from an old stove and the furnace. As soon as the gas leaks were fixed, our violets started to look better.

It really is easy to get your African violets to bloom year-round! Just provide them with what they like (light, food, water, comfortable temperatures, no cold drafts, humidity, soil, correct size pot, and no gas leaks) and they will reward you by growing and blooming throughout the year.

PLEASE LET US SHARE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU WITH OUR READERS!

We want to do a column, maybe once a year, to pass along tips, suggestions, and good ideas for growing African violets. If you have something that helps you as an African violet grower, please send it to us! Unless you specify otherwise, we will include your name.

NOTE:

Be sure to read the "Question Box"! It is a wonderful column that is devoted to answering all of your questions. Ralph Robinson and Dorothy Kosowsky are both experienced growers who have won many awards for their African violets. So don't hesitate to contact them when you need help.

Lone Star AV Council 1999 Convention

by Majorie Bullard • *Convention Chair*

The Corpus Christi AVS is thrilled to be hosting the LSAVC 1999 Convention. The convention will be held at the Ramada Inn - Bayfront located one block from the Corpus Christi Bay and Marina.

We have two excellent presentations for you. Richard Nicholas, current LSAVC Vice President and consistent award winning grower of African violets will be presenting a program centered on horticulture. Mary Hill, a charter member of AVS of Greater Tulsa, will be showing us how "Growing Violets is Fun - Let's Keep It That Way".

Our Judge's School will be taught by Meredith Hall, Teacher and AVSA Master Judge. Donations for awards may be sent to Virginia Thompson, 801 Alden, Corpus Christi, TX 78412.

The public is invited on November 5, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and November 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CCAAS is very pleased to invite you all to bring your violets, and join them in "Violets Explore the Texas Gulf Coast". We offer you a wide variety of new and exciting things to do and see - many of them within walking distance. Ya'll come!!

VIOLETS ON BROADWAY

No, it's not New York - it's Richmond, Virginia. Yes, Richmond will host the 1999 Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society (MAAVS) convention and show.

"Violets on Broadway" will "open" at the Holiday Inn Central (804-359-9441), Richmond, with the stars of the violet world in attendance. Show dates/hours are Nov 12 (2:00-5:00) and Nov 13 (9:00-3:00). Sale hours are Nov 11 (2:30-9:00); Nov 12 (9:00-5:00); and Nov 13 (9:00-3:00).

Violets will hold center stage but "waiting in the wings" are the many attractions of Richmond: the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens; Annabel Lee Riverboat Cruises; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Edgar Allan Poe Museum; the Museum and White House of the Confederacy; and Maymount Mansion and Gardens.

MAAVS invites all violet lovers to come to Richmond for "Violets on Broadway". Contact Cathy Akers 540-786-9587 for information.

Back To Business!

If your affiliate is like mine, you are now back to your regular schedule of meetings and programs. Please ask your affiliate to donate an award for the Omaha 2000 Convention.

How about you? I gladly accept awards from who ever will sponsor one. Don't forget that gift certificates from commercials will gladly be accepted.

The Missouri Valley African Violet Council (your host) is working hard to make this a memorable convention. How about if we all do our part and donate an award. It is a great way to participate even if you can't attend.

And, don't forget to nominate those local members for the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership (criteria

in May AVM). Do you know someone on the national level who deserves to be recognized for all the hard work they do? Remember, they are all volunteers. All we can do is applaud. So let's acknowledge them!

Make checks payable to: *AVSA Convention Fund* and mail them to: Mrs. Linda L. Golubski

1416 N. W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. CST

e-mail: golubski@kc.net

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

John Brownlie – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

- ***Aca's Coral Lagoon** (8794) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Semidouble coral ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, pebbled, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- ***Aca's Purple Explosion** (8795) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Single-semidouble dark blue large ruffled star/purple overlay. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- ***Aca's Purple Peace** (8796) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Semidouble purple two-tone ruffled star. Dark green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**
- ***Aca's Red Charmer** (8797) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Semidouble red ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- ***Aca's Red Face** (8798) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red large star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Large**
- ***Aca's Ronnie Redhead** (8799) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Single-semidouble plum red large star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- ***Aca's Summer Parfait** (8800) 4/8/99 (J. Brownlie)
Single-semidouble pink and white frilled pansy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

.....

Cathy Cornibe – Santa Cruz, CA

- ***Madam President** (8801) 4/17/99 (C. Cornibe) Single-semidouble-double light lavender two-tone frilled pansy/variable darker tips, green and-or maroon-purple edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink. **Standard**
- ***Mama Mia** (8802) 4/17/99 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double pink frilled pansy/variable purple band; fuchsia-purple overlay, white edge. **Variegated** green and white. **Semiminiature**

.....

J. C. Munk – Houston, TX

- ***Apache Creation** (8803) 4/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble rose ruffled star/raspberry rays, shading. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Apache Delight** (8804) 4/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble lavender frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain/red back. **Standard**
- ***Apache Friendship** (8805) 4/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble-double medium pink ruffled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink/quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- ***Apache Redcoats** (8806) 4/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble red-mauve frilled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Rodeo Pioneer** (8807) 4/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble red-purple ruffled star. Dark green, plain, pointed/red back. **Standard**

.....

Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY

- ***Rob's Argyle Socks** (8808) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Double pink star/blue fantasy. **Crown variegated** green, pink, beige and tan/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Berry Shake** (8809) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Double light pink/fuchsia-pink fantasy. Black-green, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Little Pueblo** (8810) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble coral large star. Dark green, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Loose Goose** (8811) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Single-semidouble white sticktite large frilled star. Black-green, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Miss Sniffles** (8812) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble-double white pansy/irregular red-marked edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Rob's Mister Sneezy** (8813) 5/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble-double light to medium burgundy-red. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Margaret Taylor – Sydney, Australia

* Dreamtime * Lillian Love * Sharon's Way * Yoon

MASTER LIST EDITORIAL CORRECTION
Optimara Little Azurite (7915) 7/6/93 (Holtkamp) is a **Miniature**, not a semiminiature as published.



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

Sinningia kautskyi x *S. hirsuta* (as well as *S. hirsuta* x *S. kautskyi*) is a popular plant that has won many ribbons at AVSA conventions. Phyllis King of Florida really knows how to grow this wonderful plant. We now can attach a name to it, *Sinningia* 'Amizade.' Norah Otto has created a beautiful line drawing of it for this column.

In an article in the *Gesneriad Hybridizers' Association's* newsletter, *CrossWords*,

Volume 23, Issue 2, 1999, for which I am the editor, Ron

Myhr from Canada writes, "This hybrid was produced independently by Mauro Peixoto and Dave Zaitlin, and was subsequently distributed by both. Dave has distributed seedlings from both directions of the cross (with both *S. kautskyi* and *S. hirsuta* as seed parents). It is not possible to distinguish the three separate distributions, which appear to be identical in all visible respects. All distributed clones are self-sterile, and Dave's attempts to pollinate his with pollen from several other likely species candidates have been unsuccessful.

The fact that three separate clones are in distribution

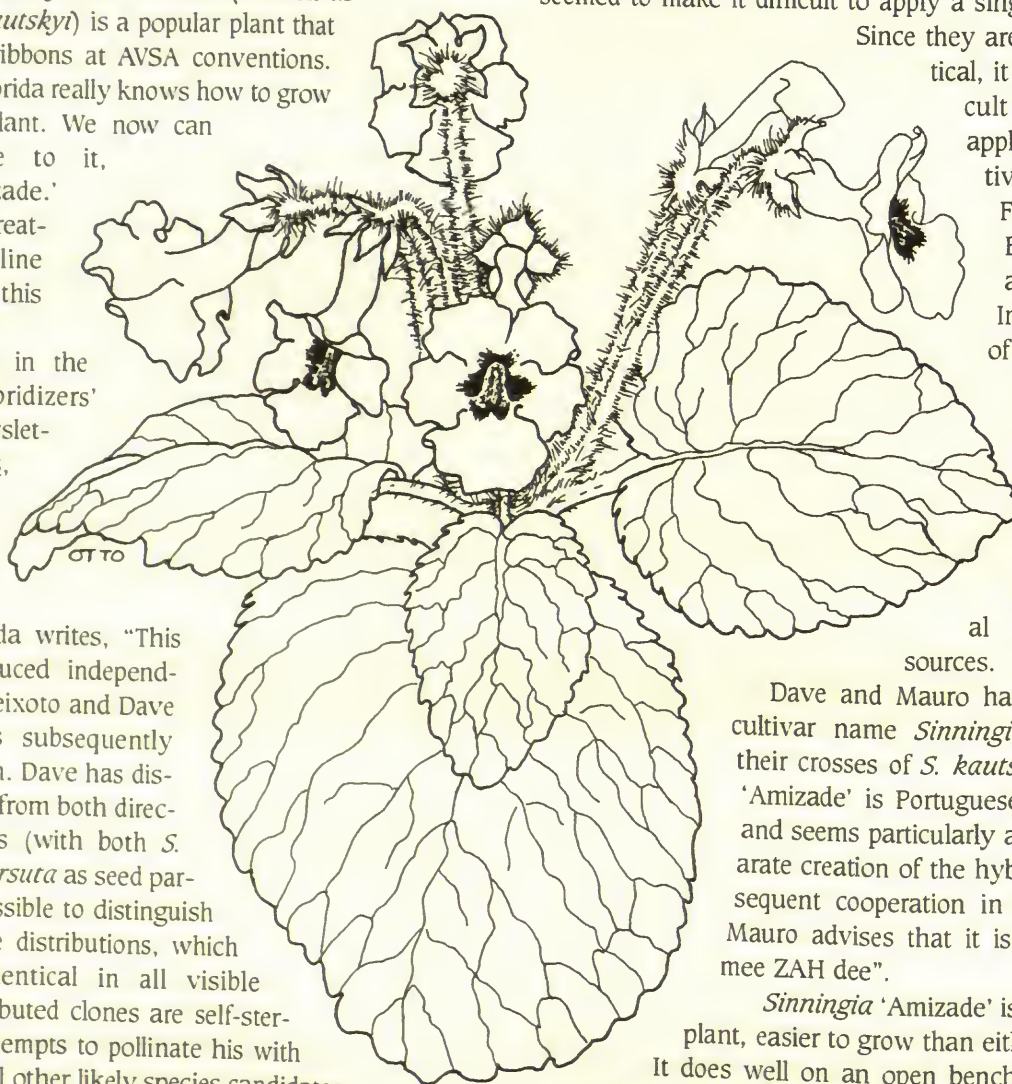
seemed to make it difficult to apply a single cultivar name.

Since they are essentially identical, it was equally difficult to contemplate applying separate cultivar names.

Fortunately, John Boggan has advised that the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants allows for the application of a single cultivar name to indistinguishable plant material from multiple sources.

Dave and Mauro have agreed to the cultivar name *Sinningia* 'Amizade' for their crosses of *S. kautskyi* x *S. hirsuta*. 'Amizade' is Portuguese for "friendship" and seems particularly apt given the separate creation of the hybrid, and the subsequent cooperation in finding a name. Mauro advises that it is pronounced "ah mee ZAH dee".

Sinningia 'Amizade' is a vigorous small plant, easier to grow than either of its parents. It does well on an open bench, and can thrive along with other plants such as kohlerias, chiritas, larger-growing sinningias and *Nematanthus*. I grow it toward the edge of the light area, so it gets somewhat less



illumination than other plants. This is probably best. It can produce many flowers, like its *S. hirsuta* parent, and these flowers are larger than those of either parent. *S. 'Amizade'* is often grown smaller than its potential, by topping the plant when it outgrows a 2.5" pot, and rooting the cutting. I prefer to let it get bigger, and find that it can produce a tremendous head of flowers. I am looking at one plant now that has 15 open blossoms on a single crown, with more showing color. The hybrid is attractive when grown multi-crowned, and good symmetry can be achieved. Most growers seem to prefer single-crown plants, though.

Ron mentions Mauro Peixoto who lives in Brazil. This April, right after the AVSA convention in Houston, Elizabeth Glazebrook, an AVSA member from Australia, joined the Gesneriad Research Foundation expedition to Brazil. I asked Elizabeth to write about her adventures.

She enthusiastically wrote, "There we were at Sao Paulo International Airport, in Brazil! Seventeen intrepid international "gesneriad-dicts" from both coasts of the US and the other 3 corners of the world! Originally from Germany, Hans Weihler, is the GRF Director. Locally in Brazil, Mauro Peixoto was our marvelous Brazilian guide. Japan was represented by Nagahide Nakayama, and Australia by yours truly!

"We stayed in 11 different hotels during the 14 nights we spent in Brazil. We traveled by luxury coach, over 4,000 km (2,600 miles) from the Atlantic seaboard to the western border with Argentina and Paraguay, then back to Sao Paulo city through Parana, Santa Catarina and Sao Paulo states. On board we had hot, sweet coffee and iced tea, recliner seats, and a built in restroom!

"We passed through a variety of regions south of the Tropic of Capricorn, from straight rain forest, bypassing cities and smoky industry, down mountain passes, to open farmland. The roads varied from 4 lane cement freeways to compressed dirt running between two walls of rock... with just enough room for our coach... if we all breathed in!

"There were sinningias everywhere! Sinningias were growing on rocks with no apparent root system - just perched there in a small depression - and some of them flowering! We found *Sinningia reitzii* in a greater range of colors than previously known.

"Mauro would order the bus to stop with a cry of, "I smell sinningias!" We would pile out of the bus, and eagerly scour with our eyes any surface that was available... among the vegetation growing between the tar and farmers' fences (sometimes over the fence, with the farmer's permission, of course!)... along rock walls that had been vertically carved away to allow passage... along sand dunes beside a beach... in seams in the entrances to limestone caves... the possibilities were limitless! And the excitement of finding a *Sinningia* growing in its natural habitat! The white, bright red, or orange blossoms would give their location away, and we soon lost our inhibitions, yelling "*Sinningia!*" to alert the rest

of the group to come and celebrate our find! Apparently both *Sinningia hirsuta* and *S. kautskyi* grow in other parts of Brazil, but we did find *S. 'Amizade'* flowering on Mauro's greenhouse benches which was one of the treats of our last full day in Brazil!

"We found *Nematanthus tessmanii* with a variety of different colored calyces: one was deeper red than any Hans had previously seen! We learned to raise our eyes above the path and seek plants with opposite growing leaves growing up trunks, or dripping from many of the trees. One huge clump was even about to fall to the ground, having outgrown its niche in the fork of a tree! When we looked even more carefully, we found *codonanthes* insinuating their ways around tree trunks. The roots cling epiphittically to the bark, twining the *Codonanthe* trails around the host branches! Again, on discovery, there was the call to muster, admire and photograph the latest find!

"Most of the wild life we saw were birds, including spectacular Toucans - quite something to see in full flight around the Iguassu Falls area where we had the unique experience of seeing millions of litres of water pouring over 272 waterfalls, varying from 70 to 90 metre drops! Spectacular, indeed! Otherwise there were "friendly" coatimundis - mammals with wonderful striped tails and voracious appetites, and a water snake or two, to be avoided near rivers. Mauro, as always a treasure trove of information, said the larger mammals like pumas are too shy to be seen in the wild by passing tourists!

"We needed to collect flowering specimens each day, to press and preserve between newspaper, to produce the Herbarium record of the expedition. Some material, like flowers and leaves, were preserved nightly in small plastic bottles containing a pickling mixture of alcohol, glycerin and filtered water. Some flowers and leaves were transported back to the GRF wrapped in damp sphagnum moss. All labeling was done in pencil, even on the pieces of paper dropped into the pickle jars with each specimen! Of course, any seed pods located elicited a call to our "Seed Lady", Maryjane Evans.

"Some of us were privileged to a 200m climb on the very last day, to the "top of the world": 950 m above sea level on Pedra do Garrafao, just about spot on the Tropic of Capricorn!!! We could see the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and mountain folds and human cultivation in all other directions! What a feeling! As a final Brazilian bonus, we had the thrill of "meeting" *Sinningia mauroana* growing, exposed to full sun all day, every day, on rock, again with no apparent room for tuber and root system! That had to be photographed with its discoverer and namesake, Mauro, of course!

"We flew out of Guarolhos airport grateful for so many memories of the new experiences Mauro and Hans had provided for us: the plants, the company, the new foods and places we had been exposed to! What a marvelous time I had!"

On-demand Pump Watering System

by Barbara and Rex Pershing • Cedar Falls, IA



Overall picture of Watering System showing filling of barrel and watering hose storage.

I am fortunate to have a husband who is very handy at solving various problems I encounter with my violet growing, but this one was his idea as he became increasingly frustrated with having 30 one-gallon milk jugs sitting around waiting for the next violet watering day. With 70 trays on seven light stands in three different rooms, the watering task was time consuming. To solve this problem, he designed a watering system using an on-demand pump that is used in recreation vehicles, a 30 gallon barrel and assorted fittings. I can now fill all of the trays, use the 30 gallons of fertilizer water in about 30 minutes every 5 to 7 days and there is no need for all of those milk jugs.

Watering System Parts List

Following, is a list of supplies needed to put together this watering system:

- 30 to 35 gallon polyethylene barrel (we got ours from a creamery) or plastic garbage can (easier to find)
- On-demand pump from recreation vehicle (cost about \$65) - obtain from RV dealer
- 12 volt battery charger - to convert the 120 volt household voltage to 12 volt for pump motor
- 5/8" Exterior Plywood circle to fit top of barrel - to mount the pump and battery charger
- 2 - Rigid plastic pipe 3/8" ID x depth of barrel for inlet pipe and return pipe
- 1 - 3/8" plastic T
- 11-1/4 x 1" hose clamps
- 2 plastic shut off valves with 3/8" OD nipples
- 2 pump connectors with 3/8" OD nipples
- 3/8" ID vinyl plastic hose (clear) - length to reach water trays (Ours required 60 ft. of hose)
- Power strip with on-off switch
- Round plastic container for hose storage.

NOTE: OD = outside diameter
ID = inside diameter

If you are not familiar with plumbing nomenclature, it is a good idea to take the on demand pump to the hardware or plumbing shop to gather your parts. A good sales person can be very helpful to you in gathering your parts. Also, take this article with diagram and pictures to assist you in obtaining the components.

Assembly Instructions

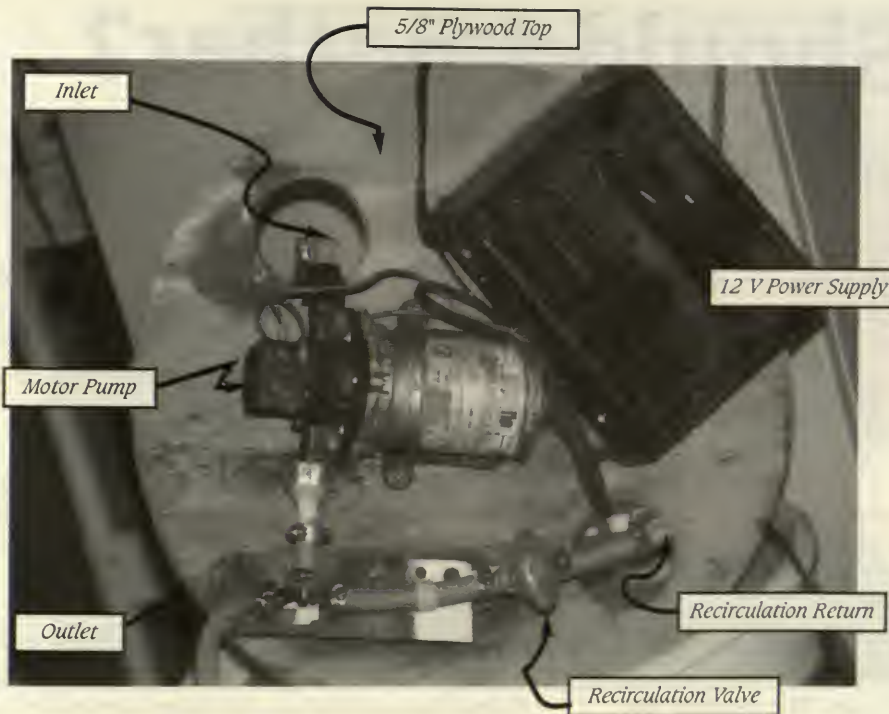
The inlet pipe and return pipe both extend into the barrel with the 12V on-demand pump attached between the inlet pipe and the T that goes to the return pipe and vinyl tubing. A shut-off valve is put between the T and the return pipe (See schematic diagram). If this valve is open and the shut-off valve at the end of the hose is shut off, the pump will stir/circulate the water in the barrel and distribute the fertilizer. When securing the hoses with hose clamps, make certain that they are secured very tightly. Several leaks can cause a terrible mess. (Voice of Experience!)

The rigid gray plastic plumbing pipe can be cut with a sharp knife, but a good hacksaw is much easier. It is essential that the pump and outlet T are secured to the top of the barrel. There is enough weight to cause the plastic hose to

This watering system has several great features:

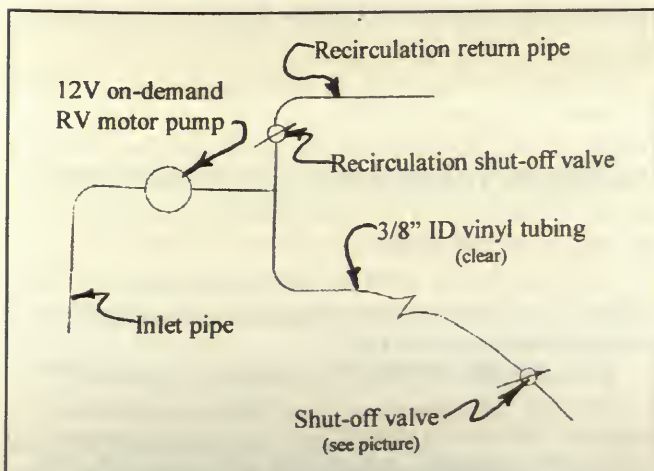
1. Since the pump has a pressure switch on it, the water from the system comes on at the opening of the outlet valve.
2. Filling the barrel with water upon completing a watering event, allows the water to warm to room temperature.
3. Fertilizer can be added at the time of refilling and stirred with the recirculating valve.

Note: Don't put Phytan 20 in the barrel before filling it with water; you will get foam/suds overflow from the household water pressure. Circulating the water with the on-demand pump doesn't create this problem.



break on the outlet. We used a 2" piece of western cedar since it resists rot from the water. You will need to cut two approximately 2" circles in the plywood top, one for the inlet pipe, which is also used to fill the barrel, and one for the return pipe.

The electrical connection between the power supply and the on-demand pump should be of crimp type, then taped 1 1/2" each way from the joint to prevent water from entering the joint. We use an electric power strip with an on/off switch to connect to an electric outlet. It is a good idea to remember to shut the power off to the system when you are finished using it. If the valve is not completely shut off or if there should be a small leak in the plastic hose or at a connection, the pump will continue to come on and empty your barrel over a period of time.



Filling trays with hose wand

pH, Should I Bother?

by Ron Smith
Australia

What is this pH? To be honest, from our point of interest as growers of African violets and their cousins, it's a technical "word" for how acidic or alkaline our potting mixes and fertilizers are.

It is not just potting mix; it embraces the water we use, and the fertilizers. All of these items determine the condition in which we are asking the plant to grow. But does it really matter? To be honest, if you are content with plants in any poor condition, don't worry, they will grow somehow.

What does pH really mean? pH is a scale which was originally used in France to determine the acidity or alkalinity of substances. pH stood for *pouvoir Hydrogen* (Hydrogen power) which detects the hydrogen ion concentration which varies depending on the acidity/alkalinity. The pH scale has 14 steps with 7.0 being pure distilled water. At the bottom of our scale there is Hydrochloric acid with a pH of 0.0 and top of the scale Sodium Hydroxide with a pH of 14.0. Lemon juice has a pH value of 2.3 and household ammonia 11.9.

To put this in prospective, pH 6 is a 100 times more acid than pH 7 in this scale.

All it means to us is that it is a scale that tells us how acid/alkaline the soil, water and fertilizer is that we are using. All plants that grow have an optimum pH where they grow best. When growing a plant in a pot it is even more important that the pH be correct because the roots are restricted in a fairly uniform potting mix. In the ground the roots have no restrictions and can search for pockets of more favorable soil. We are well aware that our plants need air, water, light, warmth and nutrients in the potting mix. If any of these are not available then the plant will not grow successfully.

The pH of the potting mix and the temperature will determine which of the nutrients are available to the plant. The plant can't use most nutrients in the soil, or those added as fertilizer, until they are converted into an available form by the microorganisms in the soil. A good soil will have millions of these microorganisms in every spoonful. Our soilless potting mix does not have as much microorganism activity because of its lack of organic matter. It is the pH and the temperature of the soil that determines the amount of microorganism activity. This then determines which nutrients can be converted and become usable by the plant.

Apart from Nitrogen, Phosphorous and potassium, plants need Calcium, Sulfur, Magnesium Iron, and Zinc Manganese and several other micro nutrients to grow. If any of these are not available, then the plant cannot function properly. A cor-

rect pH for the plant will ensure that all these elements are available to the plant, provided of course that they are present in the potting mix. An incorrect pH will make some elements unavailable and others available in excess amounts that are toxic to the plant.

African violets and other Gesneriads grow very well with good culture in a potting mix that is slightly acid (between 6.4 & 6.9) because it is at that point where most of the nutrients are available in sufficient quantity for good growth. With container grown plants, it is a fairly simple matter to obtain a potting mix, use water plus fertilizer with correct pH and grow whatever we want, if other factors such as temperature are suitable.

Nature has provided us with plants that thrive in all kinds of pH condition and in a lot of cases it's the plant that chooses the soil. So as we see in nature, different land produces different plant life.

It is also very obvious that plants grown in containers can deplete the potting mix of certain nutrients if the pH and temperatures in the mix are not correct. Until the pH and temperatures are corrected there can be no replacement of missing fertilizer elements. The plant will suffer and adding more fertilizers will not help. The fertilizer is already in the potting mix but is unavailable because the microorganisms, due to pH or temperature conditions, can not process it. In fact adding more fertilizer can do harm because of build up of salts or putting other factors out of balance and even causing toxicity.

Plants are no different than people, they need fresh air, a suitable temperature, water and a balanced diet. We owe our very existence to plants. Look after them and they will look after you.

So now that you know all about pH, there is one thing left. What pH is correct for African violets? When testing both potting mix and the water that you put in the water wells you should aim for a pH between 6.4 and 6.9. Our local society potting mix is tested to 6.5 when packed, so we have a perfect mix for African violets.

All that is left for us to do is to provide the correct temperature, plus water with the optimal amount of fertilizer, of course all with the correct pH.

It's that easy!!

*Reprinted with permission from the
newsletter of the AVS of South Australia, Inc.*



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Have a little fun... MAKE A DISH GARDEN... It's easy!

by Alma Ficke
African Violet Society of Greater New York

A dish garden is just that - A Garden in a Dish - a pretty little landscape brought into reality.

The dish you use can be any container of your choice. It must be deep enough, however, to accommodate drainage material and the roots of the chosen plants. The size depends on how large a garden you wish to create. The plants, more or less, must require the same sort of care, such as light and watering so that your little garden may give pleasure for as long a time as possible with a minimum of care.

If the little garden is to be entered into a Spring Show, a blooming African violet must, of course, be included in the planting. Whether for show, or for "gifting" or for decoration in your own home, your imagination must really be put into play when you are buying or growing your plants. A plant may represent a tree, a little bush, and smaller plants in the foreground. Colors and different types of growth add to the attractiveness; a red *Iris*, a little pink Polkadot plant, an Aluminum plant with its green and silver markings. Try a little Boxwood or a variegated *Buonymous* or perhaps one of the *Aralias* to represent a tree. These are just a few suggestions; you will find ever so many small plants at greenhouses or at botanical gardens.

Thin pieces of slate may be used for a little pathway or a little patio. Use a colored stone for accent or for a sort of retaining wall if you wish to make more than one level. There are some beautiful pieces to be picked up as you travel around. I found some lovely rose colored ones in Virginia while on a trip, but you will not really have to go far from where you are. I found a lovely stone some summers ago in Forest Park, Long Island, very near to where I live, and another sort of hollowed out stone that made me think of a small pool. For water I sprayed the hollow with a super high gloss seal-it spray. You may want to introduce a little animal, a little bird or some other accessory. Be VERY CAREFUL here to see that the overall picture is kept in scale.

Now to begin. Into the container you have selected, place about 3/4 inch of drainage material (pebbles are good) and

some charcoal (three parts pebbles to one part charcoal). Cover this with some sort of screening to prevent the soil from sifting through. Top this with a little potting soil.

Now take the plants you have chosen, still in their little pots, and arrange them as you would like them to grow in your dish, the taller ones at the rear for background. The tallest one should not be taller than the dish is wide from front to back. You will be able to tell just by looking at it. You need not really adhere to this arrangement; in fact you may wish to place the taller of your plants to one side in keeping with the picture you may have in your mind. This is entirely up to you, the gardener.

When you think you have the plants set where the arrangement pleases you, carefully remove them from their pots, leaving as much of the earth on the roots as possible and place them back into their places. At this point they may still be moved about until you see exactly what you had in mind at the beginning.

Now add more earth to hold the plants in place. One more critical look and then fill the rest of your dish with earth, making your garden ready for the finishing touches. But, first give your little garden some water, just enough to settle the earth and to refresh your plants. I use a Glass Plus spray bottle because it has both spray and mist. Now check once more if it pleases you. If you are satisfied, continue.

All the visible earth should be hidden by a ground cover. Some moss or some very small stones could be used (stay away from those bright colored ones you often see used, they distract the eye from your planting efforts). Here again, only you can decide. Your little figures, if you wish to use them, are put into place now. At this time I often add a little green growing something such as baby's tears or button fern at the edge of the dish, letting some hang over the edge for a natural growing effect, but where or if is up to you. Should one of the plants at a later date become unpleasing to the eye, it can, with a little care, be replaced with something else.

Enjoy your gardening.

CLEOPATRA'S PROBLEM SOLVED?

by Nadine Parsons • La Crescenta, CA

The violet cousin *Episcia* 'Cleopatra' had me stumped for about fifteen years. I had purchased a 12 inch bubble bowl with 'Cleopatra' growing in it from a club member at a mall show many years ago.

'Cleopatra' struggled and struggled to live in that bowl. It was very unhappy. It had been planted in some kind of an African violet mix, and was not doing well. Since I grow all of my African violets and gesneriads in starter mix from leaf to 12 to 16 inch plants with much success, I thought I would try using that, but 'Cleopatra' refused to do anything but grow backwards. I seemed to be picking off browned leaves constantly, reducing the plant to almost nothing. But it was still holding on, waiting to keep living.

At a Council Meeting earlier this year, we had a question and answer program. I asked the question I hoped to get an answer to. "How do you grow *Episcia* "Cleopatra?" The answer to my problem was simple and solved.

"Grow it in sphagnum moss" was the answer. As soon as I arrived home, (I could hardly wait!), I cleaned out the 12 inch bubble bowl, lined it with sphagnum moss, which I soaked in hot water. I took what was left of my sad 'Cleopatra' and planted her in a shallow container about four inches wide and two inches deep, (with drainage holes), containing the shredded sphagnum moss. I placed the container in the middle of the

bubble bowl and packed sphagnum around it. It was watered with fertilizer water whenever the sphagnum moss looked dry, directing the water around the edge of the bowl. Any extra water drains out of a tiny hole at the bottom of the bowl in a drain pan. Fertilizer used is whatever my African violets are getting that day, Schultz 10-60-10, 20-30-20 or Dyna Gro, and Peters 20-20-20. I also use "AmQuel", a water detoxifier which removes chloramines, toxic pheromones and chlorine, a couple drops to a gallon of tap water.

In about a month or six weeks, happy 'Cleopatra' was growing and filling up the bowl with tiny stolens. That was back in January, 1999.

I am taking off stolens and filling tiny bubble bowls with its offspring and, of course, planting them in sphagnum or green moss. It grows under cool white fluorescent tubes.

This has been a very exciting event in my forty-five years of growing African violets and gesneriads. I am wondering how many other gesneriads would benefit from this method of growing with sphagnum or green moss. I am trying *Streptocarpus* and *Sinningia pusilla* to see if I have such good luck with them.

The moral of the story is don't give up, keep trying, don't be afraid to ask questions, and you are never too old to learn!

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS – MODIFIED CASH BASIS DECEMBER 31, 1998

ASSETS	1998	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (continued)	1998
CURRENT ASSETS:		Deferred membership fees	\$ 59,557
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 87,772	Deferred life memberships	109,200
Investments	165,235	Deferred income, future conventions	2,645
Miscellaneous receivable	1,500	Deferred revenue - other	6,321
Inventory	14,412	Total current liabilities	183,368
Prepaid expenses	10,981		
Total current assets	279,900	NEW ASSETS:	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT , net of		Unrestricted:	
accumulated depreciation of \$76,452		Operating	4,650
and \$66,873	113,915	Board designated - convention	23,779
OTHER ASSETS:		Board designated - life membership	19,405
Reorganization costs net of accumulated		Board designated - Boyce Edens	41,806
amortization of \$4,880 and \$4,880	-	Board designated - Hudson awards	1,342
PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:		Board designated - building	-
Investments	32,500	Property and equipment	113,915
Total assets	\$426,315	Total unrestricted net assets	204,897
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		Temporarily restricted	5,550
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		Permanent restricted	32,500
Payroll and sales tax liabilities	\$ 1,449	Total net assets	242,947
Deferred advertising income	4,196	Total liabilities and net assets	\$426,315

Showcase

Ultra Violet Saturn

Exhibited by: Margie Geissler

Hybridized by: Green Circle



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Cool Fruit

Hybridized & Grown by:

Ralph Robinson

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Apache Friendship

Exhibited by: Lenora Munk

Best in Class

2nd Best in Show

AVSA 1999 National Show

Hybridized by: J. C. Munk

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Pat Champagne

Exhibited by: Patricia Tillman

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature



More Ways to Attract New Members

Bev Promersberger

Affiliate Chairman

17415 Charter Pines Dr

Monument, CO 80132

email: clubs@avsa.org

A recent quote from an AVSA member wanting to start a new affiliate:

"I sent my initial letter to prospects using the list you obtained from the AVM mailing list. The next day three people called, very excited, with an offer of a meeting place and an offer to take some of my plants on consignment! How about that!"

We are continuing this month with several creative ways to attract new members. I hope one or more are helpful to your affiliate.

1. Do you have a Welcome Wagon in your area? You might contact your local welcome wagon and make arrangements to have a gift card enclosed each time the welcome wagon visits a new member in your community or local area. The gift card could offer leaves, a starter or blooming plant along with a culture folder and/or a sample copy of The African Violet Magazine to anyone who makes contact with or visits your club. You set the offer to coincide with your club's needs and ability to provide. Attract that new person in the community before he/she becomes too busy with other commitments.

2. Have you ever had a garage sale? Try one for just African violets. An article in the June 1985 issue of The African Violet Magazine, "One Way to Start an African Violet Club," explains that this has been one method used to start new clubs. Why not use the same method to increase membership in an existing club? Make it a club project. Have any or all of your club members bring plants to sell and be available to share information. Take the time to visit and take information from those interested in attending a future meeting. You could have a short flyer available with future meetings and/or show information listed. An individual follow up provides a personal touch, either by phone or by mail. This method is similar to a show or sale, but with a different twist and could provide an outlet to friends and neighbors in the immediate area.

3. Do you have friends, relatives, or neighbors with whom you can share a plant? Consider sharing with that plant a sample copy of The African Violet Magazine (available from

AVSA for the cost of postage) or better yet, a one year gift subscription. The plant, plants or leaves you share might only be the beginning. As you use this as an opportunity to share your enthusiasm for your hobby, those recipients of your gifts might also become hooked.

4. Could you try having a special guest meeting? Consider having a meeting scheduled at the beginning of the year - a meeting designed or planned for all members to bring those guests with whom he/she has shared his/her hobby. This is the chance for a member to invite a neighbor, friend or relative that he/she gave a plant and/or AVSA membership subscription. It would be good to make this meeting special in several ways: special hostesses to greet and talk to the guests, a short meeting, refreshments, and even a special program aimed at the novice grower. Why not include a gift plant or leaves for the guests to take home?

5. In a previous Affiliate column, I shared with you the availability of obtaining a list of the AVSA members in your area. One club requested that list and sent out letters to everyone. The letter included all the clubs in the area, the time, day and places that each met. The letter extended an invitation to each AVSA member not already belonging to a local affiliate to visit the one most convenient to them. The quotation at the beginning of the column was the result of this list used by someone interested in starting a new club. If either one of these situations is one that your club might consider appropriate, you can contact me by mail or e-mail listed above. Be sure to include the cities, zip codes, or counties that you want included in the list and I will return the information to you as soon as possible.

6. Do you or any of your members have extra blooming violets? Maybe your club could purchase these and place them in various business offices in your area; banks, doctor or dentist offices, etc. Include a business card or note beside them with the name of your club and contact information. Offices are often happy for the color and you get the publicity. Maybe some of your members work where plants could be used in this way.

In conclusion, I want to encourage you not to discourage

an interested grower who contacts you regarding your club. Don't tell them your membership is dwindling and that you are a dying club. This has happened on more than one occasion. Rather, tell them you are a small club and would welcome their joining you. That one person might be just the one to make the difference. Delight in a potential new member, welcome them, be a friend and share your hobby, let them share their talents.

If you were in attendance at the Affiliate meeting in Houston, you know that next year's topic is "helping the affiliate to put on a show." I want to compile a list of themes with the design topics to match, but I need your help. You can help

me and all affiliates, including your own, by sending me copies of your schedules, past and/or present. Or, you can send me by mail or e-mail, a list of your show titles accompanied by the matching design topics. I plan to put them all together to share with those in attendance at the Affiliate meeting in Omaha next June. Thank you to those who attended and said you would be willing to support this project.

Remember to check the insert of this magazine. Make sure that the president and mailing address for your affiliate is current and correct. That's how I began. I was a member of AVSA first and found the local affiliate in my area listed in the magazine.

AVSA RESEARCH PAYS OFF – YOUR DONATION DOLLARS AT WORK

During the last year the Boyce Edens Research Fund has funded four research projects. Two are completed and two are still in progress.

1. Dr. Michael Moeller of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, Scotland has completed a DNA sequencing study of closely related African violet species. His study is useful to those breeding new violets. A copy of his report is available to anyone wishing to have a copy.
2. Dr. Larry Barnes, plant pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service has just finished a very successful project on the control of powdery mildew on African violets. The results will soon be printed in the AV magazine.
3. Dr. M. O. Way, entomologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is in the process of determining the best control for thrips on violets. This work will also be completed soon.

4. Dr. Harvey Lang, with the horticulture department at Texas A&M University is in the process of studying the relation of fertilizer use and salt build-up in potting soil. This will help to reduce or prevent salt damage to violets.

During the next year we hope to initiate research on Botritis control and on light quality as it effects plant growth.

If you have a particular concern relating to violets, please let me know and I will investigate the possibility of getting research.

Charles Cole, Chairman

AVSA Research Committee

6304 Los Robles Dr.

College Station, TX 77845-6104

(409) 846-4896

c_cole@tamu.edu

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from April 1, 1999 - March 31, 1999

Long Island AVS, W. Hempstead, NY . . . \$25.00
Elia Siegal, Cottage Grove, MN 2.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY 4.00
Anthony Cericola, Philadelphia, PA 2.00
Jane Mintz, Hiawasse, GA 2.00
C. V. Heeden, Republic of So. Africa 5.00
Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA 20.00
In lieu of a judging fee to Gary Mikita
Harriet Reichenback, Miami, FL 1.00
Mrs. Tom W. Clark, Charlotte, NC 20.00
Jack Simenc, Glenwood Springs, CO 2.00
Amy Cash, Montgomery, IL 2.00
Moira J. Hasbrouck, Tarpon Springs, FL . . . 3.00

William Ryan, Houston, TX \$20.00
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ 25.00
Maxine M. George, Topeka, KS 10.00
In memory of Catherine Lowell,
charter member of Topeka AVS
First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL 25.00
In memory of Evelyn Hutto
Ruth C. Russell, Topeka, KS 10.00
In memory of Catherine Lowell
NASA Area AVS, League City, TX 25.00
Montrose AVS, Montrose, CA 10.00
In memory of Mildred Lee Cooper
Allen Foust, Orange, NJ 6.00

Margaret Nasta, McKeesport, PA \$10.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR 2.00
Florence Silverstein, Norwalk, CT 6.00
Sarasota AVS, Sarasota, FL 25.00
In memory of Mary Mumma
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA 25.00
Juanita Dash, Freeport, NY 2.00
Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA 10.00
Bahamas AVS, Nassau, Bahamas 10.00
Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO 5.00
Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL 10.00
Carolyn Wallach, Fenton, MO 10.00

Showcase

Gleeful Elf

Best in Class

3rd Best in Show

1999 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Ken Froboese

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

B-Man's Noto

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Bruno Curcuruto

AVS of Canada National Show

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 1999

^JAVSA Judges, ^xSenior Judges, ^MMaster Judges, ^SStudent Judges, ^TTeachers and ^{ME}Master Emeritus

(Editors Note: If your name does not appear below, check to see if your dues and judges certificates are current.)

CANADA ALBERTA

- ^J Bowes, Lil, 17321 - 60 Ave NW, Edmonton, T6M 1E9
- ^J Corbett, Sharon J, 8206 162 St, Edmonton, T5R 2L7
- ^J Den Oudsten, Maida, 4424 35 Ave SW, Calgary, T3E 1B3
- ^J Douglas, Mrs. F M, 232 Southampton Dr SW, Calgary, T2W 0V7
- ^S Goretsky, Laurel, 32 Scimitar Point Dr SW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- ^x Goretsky, Winston J, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- ^J Gratto, Mrs. M R, 4206 33rd St, Red Deer, T4N 0N2
- ^J Hargesheimer, Erika E, 81 Woodpath Terrace SW, Calgary, T2W 5Z6
- ^J Jarratt, Margaret V, 120, Oak Church Place SW, Calgary, T2V 4B5
- ^S Laakso, Twyla, 4404 17th SW, Calgary, T2T 4P8
- ^J Liberty, Gabriela, 196 Douglas Ridge Close SE, Calgary, T2Z 2P6
- ^S Lowndes, Margaret, 4935 Marcombe Rd NE, Calgary, T2A 4J5
- ^J Melnychuk, Jean, 332 Point McKay Cdns NW, Calgary, T3B 4V8
- ^J Mitchell, Mrs L, 12911-82 St, Edmonton, T5E 2T3
- ^J Nagy, Betty, 424 Douglasbank Court SE, Calgary, T2Z 1X1
- ^S Pohl, LaRae, 7544 152 C Ave, Edmonton, T5C 3L4
- ^J Rousseau, Elizabeth A, #30 10401 19 St SW, Calgary, T2W 3E7
- ^S Smythe, Rita, 6607-34th St SW, T5E 3E7
- ^J Urano, Gwen A, 3620 - 58 Ave S W, Calgary, T3E 5H6

NEW BRUNSWICK

- ^x Bell, Jean, Codys RR 4, Queens County, E0E 1E0
- ^x Belliveau, Eva, 10 Vista Dr, Moncton, E1A 4L5
- ^S Boyd, Sherin, 211 Charlotte St, Saint John, E2M 1Y2
- ^J Brooks, Susan A, 260 Douglas Ave, Saint John, E2K 1E6
- ^x Hughes, M Louise, 14 McArthur Ave, Moncton, E1C 3L8
- ^x Moffett, Anne, 80 Moffett Ave, Sussex, E4E 3Y1

NOVA SCOTIA

- ^J Beaver, Ina, 41 James Roy Dr, Porters Lake, B3E H9
- ^{TX} Wiseman, Lois, 45 Shea St, Sackville, B42 B3C

ONTARIO

- ^J Beeching, Vivian, 648 Hillman Cres, Mississauga, L4Y 2H9
- ^J Biljan, Angelle, 5 Oakridge Blvd, Nepean, K2G 2T6
- ^x Brownlie, Doris M, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4
- ^J Carrick-Wedel, Lucy, 14 Hiawatha Rd, Toronto, M4L 2X8
- ^J Clarke, W E, 35 Sorva Dr, Nepean K2H 5R7
- ^J Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, 57 Hillbeck Cres, Scarborough, M1B 2M8
- ^S Curcuruto, Bruno, 187 Spenvally Dr, North York M3L 1R2
- ^J Ellwood, Mrs. J D, 10 Doris Ave, Gloucester, K1T 3W8
- ^x Elston, Eleanor, 190 Julia Cres, Orilla, L3V 7W9
- ^{TX} Harriman, R F, 2395 Ogilvie Rd, Gloucester, K1J 7N4

- ^S Jago, P W, 6 Eagle Rock Way, Stitsville, K2S 1C9
- TM Lex, Sandra, 70 Enfield Ave, Toronto, M8W 1T9
- ^J Maguire, Diane, 5326 Wildemess Trail, Mississauga, L4Z 4B2
- ^J McCabe, Mr Robert, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa, K1G 2Y5
- ^x Tapping, Elizabeth A, 1512-511 The West Mall, Etobicoke, M9C 1G5
- ^S Toms, James C, 59 Merrygale Cres, Islington, M9B 5N9
- ^J Westbrook, Bill, 848 Acadian Gardens, Orleans, K1C 2V6
- ^x Williams, Beverley, 3052 Grenville Dr, Mississauga, L5A 2P7
- ^J Wolfe, Inez, 270 Church St Apt 503, Streetsville, L5M 1N3
- ^J Yaremko, Daphne, 27 Palmer Circle, RR #2 Bolton, L7E 5R8
- ^S Young, Bruce, 1-15 Acacia Ave, Ottawa, K1M 0P3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- ^x Lewis, Hilda, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown, C1A 3Y9

QUEBEC

- ^S Chayer, Jean-Paul, 2109 St. Philippe, Jonquiere, G7S 4P3
- ^M Durand, Greta, 21 Lakeshore Road #317, Pointe Claire, H9S 5N3
- ^J Gagnon, Denise, 269 Rue Senecal, Longueuil, J4G 1M8
- ^J Gagnon, Marie, 1571 Sabrevois, Beloeil, J3G 6A6
- ^J Gendron, Claire, 4819 Place Henri-Valade App 4, Montreal, H1Y 3G7
- ^x Henry, Irene, 349 Hyman Dr, D. D. O., H9B 1L5
- ^J Herbatuk, Anne, 2400 Auvergne, Duvernay Laval, H7E 1Z4
- ^J Johnston-Newman, Nancy, 127 Spartan Cres, Pointe-Claire, H9R 3H4
- ^J Lemieux, Lucienne, 2193 St Stanislas St, Jonquiere, G7S 2R2
- ^J Paradis, Michel, 2688 Oxford, Longueuil, J4L 2M6
- ^J Pilon, Francine, 8120 Boul Langelier Apt 6, St Leonard, H1P 2B9
- ^J Santopietro, Diane, 7020 Lacordaire, St Leonard, H1S 2A4
- ^S Simard, Annie, 156 Eleanor, Otterburn Park, J37 1T5
- ^S Turcotte, Jocelyne, 2120 Goyer St, Chomedey, H7T 1X1

ENGLAND

- ^J Goodship-Patience, Gwen, 33 Common Rd, Langley, Slough Berkshire, SL3 8JZ

JAPAN

- ^S Horikoshi, Mr Kazuo, 2-39-9 Higashioozumi Nerimaku, Tokyo, 178-0063

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- ^{TX} Halford, Joan, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria, 0049

ALABAMA

- TM Breckenridge, Mrs. J M, 1042 19th Ave S, Birmingham, 35205-6458
- ^x Buie, Sherry, 1210 Scenic View Dr, Dothan, 36303-1957
- ^M Eichelberger, Ruby T, 1409 10th St S, Birmingham, 35205-4519
- ^x Ferguson, Donald, 5831 Oakwild Dr, Montgomery, 36117-2919

- J Jackson, Michael, 1220 14th St N, Bessemer, 35020-4676
- TM Lockhart, Mrs Roy, PO Box 660051, Birmingham, 35266-0051
- X Moseley, Mary H, 710 Duval Dr, Montgomery, 36109-3802
- TX Phythyon, Peg, 852 Haggerty Rd, Wetumpka, 36093-3316
- X Price, Mary F, 748 Dubuque Dr, Montgomery, 36109-2510
- M Sisler, Mrs. Orland O, 2833 Ashley Ave, Montgomery, 36109-2017
- M Strock, Barbara, 1681 Al Highway 143, Elmore, 36025-1520
- X Thomley, Christie D, 2602 Evans Dr, Dothan, 36303-2131
- X Till, Doris, 2927 Canterbury Ct, Montgomery, 36111-1225

ARIZONA

- J Fuller, Barbara, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson, 85710-1043
- J Jolivet, Georgette, 1255 E University Dr Apt 61, Mesa, 85203-8155
- X Loomis, Ruth, 603 N San Francisco St, Flagstaff, 86001-3230
- S Merski, Susan, 2511 N Desert, Tucson, 85712-2403
- J Schierl, Rosemary, 3056 N 109th Ave, Avondale, 85323-3767

ARKANSAS

- M Brown, Jerome E, HC 73 Box 118, Marble Falls, 72648-9714
- S Dye, Barbara, 6727 AR Hwy 321 E, Austin, 72307-8997
- J Robertson, Glenda, 5 Worthington Ct, Little Rock, 72223-1300
- S Tidwell, Danny, 202 E 2nd, McRae, 32102-0326
- J Walker, Martha, 619 Edinburgh Ct, Jacksonville, 72076-3435
- X Walsh, Peggy, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers, 72756-9245

CALIFORNIA

- S Allustiarti, Evelyn, 1812 El Verano Way, Belmont, 94002-3631
- S Arakaki, Sue, 3090 Los Prados St Apt 14, San Mateo, 94403-2030
- TX Beck, Gary R, 1155 Pine St Apt 4, San Francisco, 94109-5144
- S Boddy, Patsy, 2232 Maxine Way, Rancho Cordova, 95670-2019
- J Borck, Byron, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
- S Borck, Heath, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
- S Borck, Heather, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
- TX Breden, Ralph, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, 90277-6433
- J Carter, Carolee, 183 del Monte Ln, Morgan Hill, 95037-3541
- J Chase, Celine K, 482 Rutherford Ave, Redwood City, 94061-4214
- X Comibe, Cathy, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, 95060-2442
- J Cox, Leslie, 208 Maynard Ave, Newbury Park, 91320-4264
- J Eisenhut, Jacquie, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance, 90505-3011
- TX Elkin, Barbara Jane, 2855 Gayle Ln, Auburn, 95602-9674
- J Fallaw, June, PO Box 8157, Pittsburg, 94565-8157
- J Gawienowski, Mrs. D, 1140 Northumberland Dr, Sunnyvale, 94087-1709
- X Gealy, Carroll B, 1924 Elmsbury Rd, Westlake Village, 91361-3509
- J Geck, Honey, 8381 Daren Cir, Huntington Beach, 92646-2127
- J Grafelmann, Fred, 1447 32nd Ave, San Francisco, 94122-3136
- J Gregory, Mary, 5116 W 137th Pl, Hawthorne, 90250-6539
- J Hoefer, Edward E, 607 Virginia Rd, Fullerton, 92831-1839
- J Hoover, Darryl, 1507 W Fem Dr, Fullerton, 92833-2332
- X Inpijn, Hans, 5412 Via Carrizo, Laguna Hills, 92653-3092
- M Jantzen, Anne, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell, 95008-2759
- X Keating, Iris L, 149 Loretto Ct, Claremont, 91711-1739
- J Kenny, Jacklyn, PO Box 428, Crockett, 94525-0428
- TM King, Frances C, 3327 28th St, San Diego, 92104-4524
- X Kosowsky, Dorothy, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier, 90601-1016
- J Lawson, Floyd L, 1100 W Huntington Dr Apt 21, Arcadia, 91007-6302
- J Linkswiler, Rita, 12512 Prairie Rose Way, Bakersfield, 93312-3569
- J Lombard, Lynn, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax, 95713-9218
- J McCanne, Gini, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont, 91711-3461

- TM McCoy, Ruth Jo, 605 Pringle Ave Spc 44, Galt, 95632-8749
- J Mendes, Leona M, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park, 95682-9079
- S Miller, Diane W, 7056 E Country Club Ln, Anaheim 92807-4414
- X Naylor, Florence, PO Box 1411, Ventura, 93002-1411
- J Orcholski, Chrisy, 7629 Trask Ave # A, Westminster, 92683-2303
- J Parker, Vera, 214 W Mayfair Ave, Stockton, 95207-5109
- M Poss, Harriette, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo, 94403-4311
- J Ragan, Vivien, 2026 Beach St, Concord, 94519-2506
- J Rapske, Kathleen, 448 Fallbrook Ave, Newbury Park, 91320
- J Re, Leonard, 9144 Helm Ave, Fountain Valley, 92708-4435
- X Roberson, Betty S, 2848 Andover Ave, Carlsbad, 92008-7002
- TM Rosenfeld, Mrs Lawrence, 2030 Junction Ave, El Cerrito, 94530-1765
- X Shaver, Marcia L, 1187 Buckingham Dr, Thousand Oaks, 91360-5204
- X Shipley, Jean, 3238 Preble Ave, Ventura, 93003-4808
- S Sweeney, Lyn, PO Box 7025, Rancho Santa Fe, 92067-7025
- J Thomas, Irene, 1199 Lyons St, Redwood City, 94061-2262
- J Thornburg, Don, 10137 Daisy King Dr, Grass Valley, 95949-9239
- X Wang, Ann, 120 S 4th St, Santa Paula, 93060-2605
- X Weaver, Doris R, 3940 Alvarado Ave, Stockton, 95204-2303
- J Willoughby, Kathy, 336 Chardonnay Cir, Clayton, 94517-1428
- S Wilson, Renee, 5086 Bangor Ave, Kingsbury, 93631-9430
- J Wood, Enid, 45 Hallmark Cir, Menlo Park, 94025-6682

COLORADO

- TX Golla, Billie, 10 Scott Dr N, Broomfield, 80020-1138
- J Hann, Mrs. Richard C, 3338 S Glencoe St, Denver, 80222-7520
- M Kiesling, Ella A, 475 Madison St, Denver, 80206-4438
- J Levine, Nelly, 8797 Iris St, Arvada, 80005-1233
- J Miller, Jean Marie, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada, 80003-3943
- J Mitchell, Shirley, 2200 Stanford Rd, Fort Collins, 80525-1415
- X Olander, Martha, 3333 E Florida Ave Apt 21, Denver, 80210-2541
- X Otto, Norah E, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route Nederland, 80466-9626
- TX Promersberger, Beverly, 17415 Charter Pines Dr, Monument, 80132-8468
- TX Ratte, Frances, PO Box 382, Black Hawk, 80422-0382
- M Schaezel, Margaret T, 2451 S Jasmine Pl, Denver, 80222-6229
- J Sorensen, Janice, 8357 E Jamison Cir S, Englewood, 80112-2755
- J Tracy, Parker E, 620 S 41st St, Boulder, 80303-5915
- S Weber, Harry, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428
- S Weber, Linda, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428

CONNECTICUT

- J Bower, Richard C, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison, 06443-2216
- X Butler, Ann W, 8 Buell St, North Haven, 06473-4309
- J Fargeot, Marge, 235 Alps Rd, Branford, 06405-4745
- TM Hayes, Nancy G, 9 Cobblestone Rd, Bloomfield, 06002-3003
- J Kilpatrick, Marcia G., 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton, 06247-1112
- J Lay, Doreen G, 97 Winthrop Rd, Windsor, 06095-1920
- X Rourke, Edna, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129
- J Siegel, Sylvia L, 11 Saint Marys Ln, Norwalk, 06851-2211
- J Taub, Sylvia B, 141 E View Dr, Windsor, 06095-1829
- X Wallach, Lynn, 55 Red Coat Rd, Westport, 06880-1414
- X Wheeler, Roger W, PO Box 263, Shelton, 06484-0263
- S Wille, Susan G, 45 Ledyard Ave, Bloomfield, 06002-3357

DELAWARE

- X Abramson, Mrs. D G, 4003 Greenmount Rd, Wilmington, 19810-3303

- x Behnke, Mrs. Wallace P, 1735 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, 19702-2027
- TX Callaghan, Carol, 2806 Rickdale Rd, Wilmington, 19810-3434
- x Celano, Angeline, 4927 Lancaster Pike, Sedgely Farms Wilmington, 19807-2550
- x Celano, Theresa, 1703 N Bancroft Pkwy, Wilmington, 19806-2433

FLORIDA

- s Bannister, Ronald L, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs, 32708-3646
- J Barnes, Dee, 2425 Harden Blvd Lot 120, Lakeland, 33803-5952
- J Boyer, James R, 1154 Pointe Newport Ter, Casselberry, 32707-7236
- J Brown, Claudette, 14189 W Hibyrd Ct, Crystal River, 34429-5155
- s Collier, Christel, 1203 Greenview Dr, Lakeland, 33805-4715
- x Courson, Barbara J, 527 Willow Run Knls, Lakeland, 33813-3666
- s DiMaio, Lynn, 2319 Treasure Isle Dr, Palm Beach Garden, 33410-1326
- M Eichenberger, Mrs William, 1544 Lime St, Clearwater, 33756-2345
- x Goldstein, Mrs. Jack, 12900 SW 33rd Dr, Davie, 33330-1246
- TM Green, Bob, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge, 32955-3913
- J Green, Jackie, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge, 32955-3913
- J Hendershot, Eryth, 817 Johnson Ave, Lakeland, 33801-5258
- s Jank, Stephen P, 197 Wood Hall Dr, Mulberry, 33860-8522
- TM Johnson, Mrs. H Steven, 1105 Clubside Dr, Longwood, 32779-6203
- J Kurtz, Jan, 804 Rio Vista Dr, Pensacola Beach, 32561-2281
- x Martinez, Jo Anne, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, 33613-1048
- s Menish, Wilhelmine, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon, 33511-4815
- x Merritt, Louise, 4200 Croydon Rd, Pensacola, 32514-6814
- s Mink, Janis, 430 E Dayton Cir, Fort Lauderdale, 33312-1917
- J Moak, Frederick E, 1007 Meadowcrest Dr, Valrico, 33594-6624
- x Partain, Judy, 9 Hummingbird Ln, Winter Haven, 33884-3111
- J Potter, Leticia, 10515 Firestone Dr, Bradenton, 34202-4068
- x Ross, Jean Marie, 114 Reflection Blvd, Auburndale, 33823-9656
- x Schwindt, Patti, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando, 32806-3054
- J Scott, Lillian, 1917 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral, 33904-4092
- J Shelton, Glenn, 8977 70th St, Pinellas Park, 33782-4509
- J Sims, Charline, 7950 Lancelot Dr, Pensacola, 32514-6434
- TX Smith, James H, 1449 Paloma Ln, Dunedin, 34698-4317
- x Sprayberry, Lois R, 840 Linton Ave, Orlando, 32809-6462
- M Whitaker, DoDe, 2085 Leeward Ln, Merritt Island, 32953-3062
- J Wilson, Lynne, 645 Hudson Ave, Tampa, 33606-3926

GEORGIA

- J Carter, Catherine A, 1134 Bowerie Chase, Powder Springs, 30127-4968
- x Cumpston, Joan, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170
- s Duncan, Stephanie, 2030 Youngbloom Dr, Hephzibah, 30818-4552
- s Hinton, Anne, 2326 Allen Ave, Augusta, 30906-5324
- J Kotliar, Margaret, 112 Skyview Ct, Athens, 30606-3847
- x Lewis, Betty, 935 Ridgedale Dr, Lawrenceville, 30043-3228
- s McGaha, Sarah W, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming, 30040-5207
- x Moffatt, Helen, 4183 Quinn Dr, Evans, 30809-4819
- s Red Horse, Kay, PO Box 81, Chickamauga, 30707-0081
- x Thurman, Gary, 24 Myrtlewood Dr, Savannah, 31405-1024
- x Thurman, Rhona, 24 Myrtlewood Dr, Savannah, 31405-1024
- J Walker, Laura L, 11048 Big Canoe, Jasper, 30143-5142
- s Williams, Elizabeth E, 4380 Deerwood Lane, Evans, 30809-4604

- s Woodward, Lynn A, 492 Cedric Way, Evans, 30809-6066

ILLINOIS

- J Allegretti, Carol, 24500 N Kelsey Rd, Barrington, 60010-1561
- x Bruns, Joe, 1220 Stratford Ln, Hanover Park, 60103-2667
- x Goodsell, Barbara, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview, 60025-4576
- s Harns, P, 2133 Crawford Ave, Evanston, 60201-1870
- J Jarowski, Frances, 182 Old Sutton Rd, Barrington, 60010-9366
- x Landgren, Anna Jean, 2450 Iroquois Rd, Wilmette, 60091-1368
- x Palm, Elinor A, 4640 182nd Pl, Country Club Hills, 60478-5037
- J Roth, Fred S, 1055 N Metter Ave, Columbia, 62236-1213
- TM Schroeder, Mildred, 1020 N Harlem Ave Apt 4F, River Forest, 60305-1519
- J Simmons, Morgan, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston, 60201-1424
- J Watkins, Libby A, RR 3 Box 298, Bloomington, 61704-9559

INDIANA

- s Mikita, Gary S, 2842 Brown St, Portage, 46368-3918
- J Willey, Jean, 851 Kenmare Pkwy, Crown Point, 46307-2654

IOWA

- TX Jones, Jackie, 607 14th Ave # 34, Durant, 52747-9785
- J Mathews, Kathy, 1562 Highway 117 N, Colfax, 50054-7529
- J Pershing, Barbara, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls, 50613-9412
- x Schafer, Celia, 3830 Woodland Ct, Davenport, 52807-1510
- x Thompson, Catherine R, PO Box 213, Cedar Falls, 50613-0213
- x Tyler, Janice K, 1461 Norske Rd, Decorah, 52101-7366
- J Watts, Joan M, 620 Ray St, Colo, 50056-1031
- J Watts, Wayne, 620 Ray St, Colo, 50056-1031

KANSAS

- J Barrett, Helen V, 6700 Farmview St, Wichita, 67206-1011
- J McCurmin, Grace R, 6812 Reeds Rd, Overland Park, 66204-1539
- M Montgomery, Isla, 216 Ross St, Downs, 67437-1822
- J Richards, Pat, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe, 66062-3004
- J Russell, Raymond L, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence, 66046-4617
- J Smith, Mary A, 2034 S Park Rdg, Wichita, 67209-3279
- J Wieditz, Faye, 1351 Caddy Ln, Wichita, 67212-4207

LOUISIANA

- x Armstrong, Al, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152
- x Armstrong, Genelle, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152
- x Barlow, Sallie, 30418 Fairway View Dr, Denham Springs, 70726-7704
- x Benge, Dorothy L, 5900 Wheeler Dr, Metairie, 70003-1037
- J David, Nancy, 110 Saint Jude St, New Roads, 70760-3720
- x Dazet, Celia, PO Box 625, Empire, 70050-0625
- J Dyson, Martha, 5021 Bayou Black Dr, Gibson, 70356-3318
- J Godeny, Elmer K, 7004 Government St, Baton Rouge, 70806-6237
- s Luzarraga, Peggy, 845 E Riveroaks Dr, Baton Rouge, 70815-4151
- x McFarland, Mary T, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-1844
- J Nugent, Flora, 7933 Timmons Trl, Shreveport, 71107-9456
- x Ozio, Yvonne, 1009 Ditch Ave, Morgan City, 70380-2910
- J Ramirez, George, 1620 Willow Bend Dr, Morgan City, 70380-1552
- s Steede-Guidry, N Kalaya, 332 Carrollton Ave, Metairie, 70005-4208
- s Truax, Robert E, 408 Hearthstone Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-5007
- x Voorhees, Wynne, 3720 Tartan Dr, Metairie, 70003-1640

MAINE

- s Davis, Christine, 18 Bakers Acres Rd, Harrison, 04040-4129

MARYLAND

- J Barbi, Kenneth W, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis, 21401-5873
- J Barbi, Susan J F, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis, 21401-5873
- TX Burns, Marie, 8624 Delege Rd, Baltimore, 21237-2107

Gordon, R Gary, 120 Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville, 20833-2307
 Haag, Janet, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore, 21212-2020
 Lages, Betty Lou, 3609 Fort Hill Dr, Ellicott City, 21043
 Sauter, Beatrice, 1 Silktree Ct, Catonsville, 21228-5867
 Toolan, Sharon, 3903 Nemo Rd, Randallstown, 21133-4007
 Wood, Beryl J, 1134 Hudson Rd, Cambridge, 21613-3234

MASSACHUSETTS

Clark, Robert A, 48 Newhall St, Malden, 02148-7055
 Courage, Alice M, 1830 Main St, Unit #39, Tewksbury
 01876-4715
 Couture, Paula, 50 Canal St, Medford, 02155-3642
 Dow, Charles M, 12 Mount Vernon St Apt 38, Melrose, 02176-5267
 Eaton, Peggy, 12 Matchett St, Brighton, 02135-1505
 Ress, Suzanne N, 8 Ashwood Terrace, Roslinda 02131-51556
 Salatino, Cheryl, 14 Maple Ave, Sudbury, 01776-3441

MINNESOTA

Aurandt, Robert, 2144 Sloan St, Maplewood, 55117-2029
 Bann, Ruth, 680 Marigold Ter NE, Fridley, 55432-5641
 Donaho, Jane, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul, 55108-1449
 Frilseth, Ellen S, 719 Emerald Rdg, Roseville, 55113-6736
 Graf, Gail, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington, 55420-3721
 Graf, James S, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington, 55420-3721
 Harrington, Dolores, 1620 Gardena Ave NE, Fridley, 55432-5818
 Johnson, Retha N, 5105 W 62nd St, Edina, 55436-2619
 Johnson, Sharon E, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines,
 55014-1350
 Kiley, Kimberly, 788 142nd Ln NW, Anoka, 55304-4103
 Lahti, Kathy, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale, 55302-3614
 Officer, Sandy, 8920 Southwood Dr, Bloomington, 55437-1744
 Paron, Mrs Marino, 940 21st Pine Ln, Cambridge, 55008-2353
 Podany, Gail, 5256 Beachside Dr, Minnetonka, 55343-4322
 Schofield, Jinean, 4665 Morris Ln, Bloomington, 55437-3456
 Semrau, Carol, 2912 9th Ave N, Anoka, 55303-1822
 Trapp, Palma, 1 Indian Hills Dr, Circle Pines, 55014-4503
 Werness, Barbara H., 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids,
 55448-7034
 Zondlo, Mrs Charles, 2580 Kenzie Ter, Minneapolis, 55418-4145

MISSISSIPPI

Brasfield, Brenda M, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch,
 38654-9360
 Wicht, Jane, 203 Broad St, Hattiesburg, 39401-3604

MISSOURI

Amelung, Nancy, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Saint Louis, 63119-1304
 Anderson, Dorothy, 1016 Maplewood Dr, Columbia, 65203-1856
 Blanton, Helen, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles, 63304-7945
 Britton, James L, 3906 SW Harbor Dr, Lees Summit, 64082-4633
 Bruning, Allison, 2503 Lilac Dr, Columbia, 65202-1227
 Burr, Carolyn E, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, 63021-7004
 Campbell, Ethel M, 5350 E Farm Road 168, Rogersville,
 65742-8424
 Carson, Doris F, 1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin, 64804-0649
 Donnell, Ramona, PO Box 959, Carl Junction, 64834-0959
 Dublinski, Susan, 328 Morgan Trl, Saint Peters, 63376-3779
 Dunlap, Gary N, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708
 Dunlap, Pat, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708
 Eaklor, Lavera I, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis, 63139-1903
 Evensen, Marilyn, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin, 63011-2748
 Golubski, Linda, 1416 NW A St, Blue Springs, 64015-3605
 Hamilton, Virginia, 7 Carole Ln, Saint Louis, 63131-2539

Hamtil, Marion A., 27 Brook Ln, Saint Charles, 63304-8118
 Hapner, Susan, 35 Ridge Point Dr, Chesterfield, 63017-2718
 Hart, Patricia M, 3350 Blue Ridge Blvd, Independence,
 64052-1068
 Hill, Sue I, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence, 64055-5801
 Loveland, Marsha D, 11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley,
 64029-9506
 Miller, Ardath L, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester, 63011-3948
 Moerer, Nancy, 413 NE 114th Ter, Kansas City, 64155-1231
 Payne, Peggy R, 108 S Elizabeth St, Hallsville, 65255-9429
 Proctor, Johnnie A, 10000 Wornall Rd Apt 3301, Kansas City,
 64114-4368
 Russom, Fran, 7022 Ethel Ave, Saint Louis, 63117-1919
 Schaaf, Marian R, 23104 E Adams Rd, Independence, 64058-2400
 Taylor, Tricia A, 9300 E 90th Pl, Kansas City, 64138-4775
 Willets, Nancy D, 6115A Pershing Ave, Saint Louis, 63112-1107
 Wilson, Roma, 4249 Michigan Ave Apt 1011, Saint Louis,
 63111-1137
 Wolverton, Wilma J, 8505 S Karr Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9122

NEBRASKA

Ahlman, Shannon, 310 N Walnut St, Grand Island, 68801-5960
 Stork, Joyce, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478
 Stork, Kent, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478

NEVADA

Mark, Carol J, 1823 Fairlie Ct, Sparks, 89434-8883
 Selleck, Jann, 12890 Fellowship Way, Reno, 89511-8658
 Thran, Diana F, 1155 Rosemary Court, Sparks, 89635-2558

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DiMambro, Lisa, 182 Old Chester Turnpike, Chester, 03036-4016

NEW JERSEY

Arnao, Susan E, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington, 08016-2513
 Borey, Mrs. Paul E, 251 Vista View Dr, Mahwah, 07430-3431
 Brown, Laurel W, 139 Evergreen Dr, Willingboro, 08046-2446
 Buschke, Mrs. Edward W, 11 Drumlin Dr, Morris Plains,
 07950-2718
 Church, Barbara, 103 Stratford Rd, Dumont, 07628-1142
 Cichocki, Karyn, 79 Beaver Run Rd, Lafayette, 07848-3112
 De Simon, Joseph, 749 Park Ave, Oradell, 07649-2009
 Fischer, Jill G, 59 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights, 07922-1812
 Friedman, Florence, 181 Elm St, Tenafly, 07670-3032
 Hill, Fred, 88 Horseshoe Ln S, Columbus, 08022-1062
 Jasaitis, Dale K, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown, 08505-2912
 Kurzynski, Robert, 270 Washington Ave, Clifton, 07011-3122
 Lang, Colleen, 216 Edgemere Dr, Toms River, 08755-1160
 Lueschen, Beverly J, 30 Farm Rd Apt 3, Somerville, 08876-4462
 Lueschen, Bill, 30 Farm Rd Apt 3, Somerville, 08876-4462
 Murasko, Mrs J, 95 Connolly Dr, Milltown, 08850-2103
 Riemer, Janet, 256 Pennington Harbourn Rd, Pennington,
 08534-4007
 Senna, Frank, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland, 07436-3501
 Skalski, Sandra, 516 MacIntosh Dr, Mullica Hill, 08062-9474
 Winfield, Cecelia, 972A Village Dr E, North Brunswick, 08902-2821

NEW MEXICO

Bowden, Jo Ellen, 407 La Veta Dr NE, Albuquerque, 87108-1401
 Garrison, Agatha, 331 County Road A027, Estancia, 87016-8033
 Iskra, Calista, 4700 Sherwood St NE, Albuquerque, 87109-2820
 Schmierer, Margaret, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque,
 87120-1113

- S Stewart, Nancy, 315 Target Road, Corrales, 87048-7769
 I Tallant, Joy, 4305 Cobblestone Pl NE, Albuquerque, 87109-2909

NEW YORK

- I Banchik, Lillian H, PO Box 222125, Great Neck, 11022-2125
 S Barthel, Frank, 102 Melvin Dr, Syracuse, 13212-4219
 M Bradford, Edward, 8525 86th St, Woodhaven, 11421-1203
 I Burdick, Doug, 55 Rosemount St, Rochester, 14620-4205
 I Burrell, Carol Ann, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446
 I Burrell, Stephen, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446
 I Califano, Margaret A, 72 Glendale Rd, Latham, 12110-4229
 M Champion, Ethel W, 8848 Van Hoesen Rd, Clay, 13041-9604
 S Dimon, Colin, 833 E Circle Dr, Vestal, 13850-5138
 S Ellison, Barbara Whiting, 264 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square, 13036-3416
 S Evans, Diane Lombardo, 52 Kristin Dr, Rochester, 14624-1048
 I Fraley, Susan J, 8 Vine St, Albany, 12203-2918
 X Ghossn, Rose, 89-D Enfield Ct, Ridge, 11961-1412
 X Gugliada, Leonore, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island, 10306-1232
 I Gutberlet, M J, 103 Hallbar Rd, Rochester, 14626-1108
 X Hart, Annabelle, 118 S Crescent Dr, Rome, 13440-4576
 S Heinrich, Marilyn, 7 Ellsworth Pl, East Northport, 11731-5723
 S Hershkowitz, Annette N, 159 Parkway Dr N, Commack, 11725-4908
 X Klein, Carolyn, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107
 S Kot, Monica L, 8184 Eileen Ave, Cicero, 13039-9564
 X Kroll, Paul F, 4325 Two Rod Rd, Harmony Hill Farm East Aurora, 14052-9693
 S Leary, Michael, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport, 14450-2102
 S Leary, Sharon, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport, 14450-2102
 I Lohan, Diane, 499 Keith Ln, West Islip, 11795-3433
 X Macaluso, Rosemary, 4016 247th St, Little Neck, 11363-1637
 I McDonald, Paula, 250 W 85th St Apt 8A, New York, 10024-3217
 I Montgomery, Eileen, 248 Marilyn St, East Islip, 11730-3306
 I Packer, Fred, 20 Mafalda Dr, Buffalo, 14215-2018
 S Palagonia, Joseph, 84 164th Ave # 08, Howard Beach, 11414-3601
 I Perras, Edward M, 90 Springhollow Dr, Cohoes, 12047-1233
 S Perrott, Barbara D, 5 Downing Ave, Newburgh, 12550-1923
 S Pigart, Tina, 172 Beverly Rd, Huntington Station, 11746-4526
 S Robinson, Kuo-Shih Ma, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009
 X Robinson, Ralph, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009
 TM Rotando, Kathryn, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach, 11561-3831
 TX Rutmayer, Mrs Kenneth, 109 Curtis Dr, Sound Beach, 11789-2254
 S Ryan, Mary, 6394 N Huron Rd, Wolcott, 14590-9306
 I Schirtzer, Claire J, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925
 S Thompson, Peter, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse, 13224-1827
 I Vogt, Dorothy, 180 Waco St, Lindenhurst, 11757-5338
 X Wagman, Fayanne B, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104
 I Wagman, Irwin, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104
 X Weber, Jane, 50 Belknap Dr, Northport, 11768-3402
 I Wildman, James A, 133 Rosemont Dr, Syracuse, 13205-3011
 I Yager, Robin, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale, 13308-1912
 I Yager, William, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale, 13308-1912

NORTH CAROLINA

- I Abplanalp, Linda, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington, 27215-4660
 I Bunn, Kermit M, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill, 28580-9446
 X Bunn, Lorena, RR 5 Box 613B, Snow Hill, 28580-9446
 S Cundiff, Mary, 5401 Forest Oak Dr, Greensboro, 27406-8317
 X Droegge, Alyce D, PO Box 1416, Franklin, 28744-1416
 S Glembocki, Elizabeth (Libbie), 4821 Jessie Rd, Apex 27502-8858

- I McElwain, Lauretta, 761 Hinton Creek Rd, Ellenboro, 28040-7742

OHIO

- S Allison, Susan, 136 Zengal Dr, Centerville, 45459-4412
 X Bartley, Betty L, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield, 45504-3513
 I Beaty, Janice, 900 Kenwyn Ct, Columbus, 43220-4160
 X Black, Mrs. George, 3548 Alabama Ave SW, Dalton, 44618-9515
 X Borton, Florence L, 4864 US Route 68 N, Yellow Springs, 45387-8739
 M Garner, Mrs. M E, 1010 Edgewood St SE, North Canton, 44720-3230
 X Grinstead, Evelyn G., 1864 Berkshire Rd, Columbus, 43221-3817
 I Hancock, Pat, PO Box 8085, West Chester, 45069-8085
 I Holtzman, Sharon, 6971 Olentangy Ln, Cincinnati, 45244-3146
 S Kühlen, Lisa, 706 Oakwood Ave, Cincinnati, 43205-2843
 X Lott, Eileen, 523 Sturgeon Dr, Akron, 44319-4311
 X Lusk, Mrs. Elmer C, 1173 Oakland Ave, Columbus, 43212-3316
 X Neumann, Linda A, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton, 44133-2904
 TX Owens, Linda, 1762 Sternwood Dr, Columbus, 43228-9716
 TM Savage, Emilie B, 39 Mead Dr, Chillicothe, 45601-3737

OKLAHOMA

- X Cotten, Jeanne M, 4402 E 105th Pl, Tulsa, 74137-6223
 TM Howlett, Rose, 4916 E 38th Pl, Tulsa, 74135-5529
 X McCawley, Edna R., 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa, 74112-6929
 TX Sutton, Pat, 1707 S 77th East Ave, Tulsa, 74112-7817

OREGON

- S Duvendack, Christy, 17389 Banyon Ln, Lake Oswego, 97034-6901
 I Ross, Elise M, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis, 97333-2928

PENNSYLVANIA

- I Allen, Lee, 15 Hollyhock Ln, Levittown, 19055-1319
 S Branson, Betsy, 712 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, 19031-1302
 I Branson, Enid, 645 Meadowbrook Ave, Ambler, 19002-4919
 X Callahan, Betty, 6 Pennsylvania Ave, Fairless Hills, 19030-1318
 S Corse, Nancy, 222 Ridgewood Rd, Media, 19063-1724
 S Criswell, Judi, 1105 Darby Rd, Havertown, 19083-3806
 I Eckard, Kurt H, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia, 19128-3632
 X Gershon, Marianne, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield, 19440-3269
 I Hanna, Susan, 472 Store Rd, Harleysville, 19438-2502
 S Lubinski, Robert, 438 Ridge Rd, New Brighton, 15066-4233
 X Lyons, Kazuko, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown, 19057-2229
 TX Lyons, William R, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown, 19057-2229
 S Maruscak, Dorothy C, 2342 McCook St, Pittsburgh, 15212-2826
 I Reed, Craig R, 119 August Ln, Lansdale, 19446-6715
 I Reed, Joan, 119 August Ln, Lansdale, 19446-6715
 I Roth, Elizabeth, 105 Carleton Rd, Wallingford, 19086-6116
 X Shannon, Laura, 8845 Norwood Ave, Chestnut Hill Philadelphia, 19118-2710
 I Smith, Judith, 7808 Conwell Rd, Laverock, 19038-7205
 TM Tinari, Anne, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley, 19006-6007
 I Wezel, Penelope, RR 2 Box 225J, Ulster, 18850-9649

RHODE ISLAND

- X Warren, Ruth, 99 Hancock St Apt 254, Tiverton, 02878-2360

SOUTH CAROLINA

- X Mims, Sandra P, 34 Waterway Island Dr, Isle of Palms, 29451-2728
 X Short, Vere, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville, 29485-8608

TENNESSEE

- 1 Adamson, Peggy, 1613 Hampton St, Nashville, 37207-4309
- 5 Cooper, Carolyn, 3197 Wortham Rd, Millington, 38053-7503
- x Ellis, Judy, 6110 Barrentine Dr, Bartlett, 38134-5934
- 5 Johnson, E Lorraine, 3356 Perkins, Memphis, 38118-4355
- TX Pair, Iona, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis, 38133-2802
- x Shirley, Ann, 7150 Cedar Rd, Bartlett, 38135-1904
- 5 Stagg, Geneva, 8188 Scruggs Dr, Germantown, 38117-6120
- x Stauffer, Helen, 2973 Falkirk Rd, Memphis, 38128-2919
- 1 Steele, Katherine, 1736 Cornelia Ln, Memphis, 38117-7004

TEXAS

- x Acree, Yvonne, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas, 75220-1631
- 1 Altenburg, Suzanne Patricia, 12633 Memorial Dr Apt 82, Houston, 77024-4843
- 5 Baumgardner, Cathy, 6611 Cloverbend St, San Antonio, 78238-1308
- 1 Becerra, Hector, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio, 78213-1935
- 1 Bullard, Marjorie, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1212, Corpus Christi, 78414-2639
- 1 Carpenter, Janice, 1321 Whitehall Dr, Plano, 75023-6700
- 1 Carter, Judith M., 19506 Mills Meadow Ln, Houston, 77094-3412
- 5 Castiglione, Janet M., 313 Plantation Oak Ave, Lake Dallas, 75065-2206
- M Chilcutt, Myrtle R., 5000 Meadow Lakes Dr Apt 305, North Richland Hills, 76180-7865
- x Clark, Anita D, 309 Lakeway Dr, Benbrook, 76126-3104
- x Click, Elaine, 10251 Helmsdale St, Houston, 77043-1810
- x Corondan, Mary, 7205 Dillon Ct, Plano, 75024-3853
- 1 Crawford, Margie C., 735 Oban Dr, San Antonio, 78216-6145
- x Curry, Eunice, 617 Mimosa Dr, Denton, 76201-0858
- x Davidson, Janice, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401
- 1 Davidson, Ronald, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401
- x Davis, Grace, 3418 Urban Dr, Garland, 75041-4628
- x Dixon, Glendel, 508 Christi Ln, Coppell, 75019-4055
- 1 Dubose, Gloria, PO Box 724, Georgetown, 78627-0724
- x Early, Alex D, 5916 Walla Ave, Fort Worth, 76133-2716
- 1 Fergon, Peggy, 7517 Overhill Rd, Fort Worth, 76116-9017
- 5 Flynn, Norma H, 20224 Havenshire Dr, Montgomery, 77356-3136
- M Forcht, Mrs. Brennan A, 833 McKinney St, Arlington, 76012-4617
- x Fort, Mural, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills, 76180-8760
- TM Foster, Bill, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121
- M Foster, Paula, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121
- 1 Froboese, Ken, 32005 1h 10 W, Boerne, 78006-9240
- 1 Fuster, Blanca, 1225 Americana Ln Apt 1205, Mesquite, 75150-4671
- x Garlick, Maxine S, 2730 Arrowhead Dr, Copperas Cove, 76522-7201
- x Gibbs, Dolores, 608 Larue Dr, San Marcos, 78666-2410
- x Goeke, Ruth, 4851 Pieper Rd, Brenham, 77833-7072
- x Goins, Gerri, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston, 77031-2220
- 5 Goss, Nancy, 1710 Deerfield Dr, Austin, 78741-3705
- TM Hall, Meredith M, 922 E 14th St, Houston, 77009-5004
- 5 Hamey, Irene, 8323 Chivalry St, San Antonio, 78250-2408
- x Hummer, Alma, 10606 Sunflower Ln, San Antonio, 78213-1623
- 1 Johnson, Dea V., 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio, 78216-3711
- 1 Johnson, Wm H, 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio, 78216-3711
- 1 Kimbro, Joyce, 4107 Wyldwood Rd, Austin, 78739-3010
- 1 Leifeste, Connie L, 12000 Riverview Dr, Woodway, 76712-7608
- x Lewis, Velma, 1008 Golf Course Rd, Andrews, 79714-3810

- x Liggett, Laura, 17411 Rustington Dr, Spring, 77379-5009
- x Linson, Virginia, 326 Drexel Dr, Grapevine, 76051-5101
- 1 Lopez, Arturo, 1000 Amur St, Mesquite, 75150-4211
- x McElhannon, Bonnie, 305 Audra Cir, Rhome, 76078-3403
- 5 Mason, Mark, 9037 Bussey Rd, Silsbee, 77656-9731
- 5 Moore, Penny, 1550 County Road 139, Hutto, 78634-5420
- x Nabers, John P, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008
- 1 Nicholas, Anne M, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428
- 1 Nicholas, Dr. Richard A, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428
- 5 Peek, Allene, Rt 1, Box 17, Bellevue, 76228-9504
- 1 Peters, Bobbie, 909 Cardinal Ln, Paige, 78659-9741
- 5 Pilbin, Marcia, 13806 River Ridge Dr, Corpus Christi, 78410-5228
- x Pittman, Hortense, 7416 County Road 129, Celina, 75009-4704
- x Pittman, Jesse R., 7416 County Road 129, Celina, 75009-4704
- 5 Pursley, Mrs Joseph, 10606 Man O War Ave, Austin, 78719-9606
- TM Ramser, Sue, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls, 76308-1908
- 5 Range, Terri, 2350 Mockingbird Ln, Garland, 75042-8329
- 1 Reddell, Janey E, 2408 Cedar Ln, Schertz, 78154-2741
- 1 Reuss, Phyllis, 3924 Bordeaux Cir, Flower Mound, 75022-7047
- x Rexilius, Jane, 5634 Yarwell Dr, Houston, 77096-3922
- x Rhodes, Aloha, PO Box 57, Manchaca, 78652-0057
- 1 Robinson, Shirley, 2303 Lawrence Rd, Kemah, 77565-3116
- 1 Rogers, Jo Anne, PO Box 653, Copperas Cove, 76522-0653
- 1 Sanders, Sandy, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446
- x Sanders, Shirley, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446
- 5 Saunders, Mary Lou, 2214 Saharah Dr, Garland, 75044-7165
- 1 Schrimsher, Jo Anne, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474
- x Scott, Iris, 11840 Rimrock Trail, Austin, 78737-2827
- 1 Spachek, Steven, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio, 78221-3832
- x Stallings, Mary, 3709 Glenmont Dr, Fort Worth, 76133-2953
- x Stenger, Joyce A, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008
- 1 Storey, Susan, 110 Rogers Ridge St, San Marcos, 78666-4715
- 5 Sugg, William, 805 Rex Ln, Garland, 75040-5737
- 1 Tracy, Betty, 6103 Royal Pt, San Antonio, 78239-1540
- M Turner, Martha, PO Box 29727, Dallas, 75229-0727
- x Walbrick, Mary, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls, 76310-3029
- x Wheeler, Ruth, PO Box 225829, Dallas, 75222-5829
- x Wright, Trish, 2106 Woodland Park Dr, Houston, 77077-6428
- TM Young, Frances, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr, Austin, 78731-4162

UTAH

- M Jones, Mrs. John H, 1786 Millcreek Way, Salt Lake City, 84106-3234

VIRGINIA

- 5 Akers, Cathy S, 11912 Smoketree Blvd, Fredericksburg, 22407-8538
- TM Boland, Mary A, 6415 Wilcox Ct, Alexandria, 22310-3329
- 5 Dudley, Roseanne C, 409 Dune St, Norfolk, 23503-5330
- M Gangerelli, Mary Ann, 2710 Viking Dr, Herndon, 20171-2400
- 1 Grundy, Alice D, 3018 Hungary Spring Rd, Richmond, 23228-2420
- 1 Hedgepeth, Kathryn A, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond, 23230-3930
- 1 Hoffmann, Susan B, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach, 23452-3941
- TM Jones, Laurene, 3430 Luttrell Rd, Annandale, 22003-1269
- 1 Knight, P, 1796 Stonehaven Ln, Virginia Beach, 23464-7031
- 1 Long, Sharon A, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr, Richmond, 23233-4332
- M Nuyianes, Opal L, 13323 Moore Rd, Clifton, 20124-1026
- TM Schmidt, William C, 500 Danray Dr, Richmond, 23227-1927
- TM Skelton, Elinor, 3910 Larchwood Rd, Falls Church, 22041-1108

- ¹ Van, Carol, 300 Brittain Ln, Hampton, 23669-1052
- ^{TX} Wilson, John E, 10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas, 20111-4222

WASHINGTON

- ^S Graves, Cathleen, 751 S 116th St, Tacoma, 98444-3254
- ¹ Pirone, Andrea, 6525 NE Wood Bay Ln, Poulsbo, 98370

WISCONSIN

- ^X Degner, Kevin W, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh, 54901-6828
- ¹ Eberle, Mildred, N93W1 7229 Devonwood Rd, Menomonee Falls, 53051-1405

- ¹ Fossum, Dorothy, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee, 53222-3522
- ^S Fox, Mrs Robert, 1235 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, 54901-3218
- ¹ Garvins, Arlene, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy, 53929-8834
- ¹ Heider, Catherine, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro, 54963-9767
- ¹ Judd, Janice, W6090 County Rd P, Monroe, 53566-9716
- ¹ Lewis, Mable, W8934 Davis Rd, Browntown, 53522-9741
- TM Mengsol, Ruth E, 5616 W Cairdel Ln, Mequon, 53092-1190
- TM Merrell, Irene, W283 Hillendale Dr, Oconomowoc, 53066-5530
- ¹ Streit, Shirley, N1795 County Rd S, Juda, 53550-9768

1999 AVSA Affiliated Clubs

(Editors Note: This is the Affiliate list as reported by the AVSA office as of July 1, 1999. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

INTERNET CLUBS

AFRICAN VIOLET CONNECTION, Lynda Welchel, President, email welchel1@flash.net

INTERNET AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Amy Trept, President, email altbass@aol.com

AUSTRALIA

AV ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, INC., Patricia O'Reiley, President, 4 Batavia Place, Baulkham Hills, 2153

AV-GESNERIAD SOCIETY OF NSW, John Hodges, President, PO Box 214, Strathfield, 2135

AVS OF QUEENSLAND, Robert Browning, President, 87 Tenth Ave, Kedron, 4031

AVS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, E Warwick, President, 15 Kinnear Crescent, Rostrevor, 5073

AVS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Nal Goulding, President, PO Box 3, South Perth, 6951

CI-CENTRAL COAST AVC, J White, President, 379 Main Rd, Norville, 2263

HUNTER VALLEY AVS, Terry Kingdon, President, 55 Butler Ave, Cooranbong, 2265

WOLLONGONG AV GROUP, Joan Kerr, President, 1 Pringle Rd, Corimal, 2518

BAHAMAS

BAHAMAS AVS, Sybil Strachan, President, PO Box GT 2048, Nassau,

BERMUDA

BERMUDA AVS, Lydia Simmons, President, PO Box HM 1112, Hamilton, HM EX

CANADA

ALBERTA

AVS OF CALGARY, Walter Salamanowicz, President, C/O 324 Cantrell Dr SW, Calgary, T2W 2C6

AVS OF CENTRAL ALBERTA, President, Bertha Lawrence, Box 6 Site 4RR#2, Red Deer, T4N 5E2

STAMPEDE CITY AVS, Ingrid Nelson, President, 224 Douglas Woods Pt SE, Calgary, T2Z 2A7

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER AV AND GESNERIAD, Marilyn Allen, President, 8 Brackenridge Place, Port Moody, V3H 4G4

MANITOBA

WINNIPEG AVS, Bonnie Batchelor, President, 320 Lake Ridge Rd, Winnipeg, R2Y 1K4

NEW BRUNSWICK

FUNDY VIOLET CLUB, Susan Brooks, President, 260 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E6

MONCTONIAN AVS, Jane Wood, Treasurer, 130 Ranch Rd, Riverview, E1B 1P3

NOVA SCOTIA

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AVS, Jean L Stanford, President, Box 683 68 Connaught Ave, Middleton, BOS 1P0

FIRST HALIFAX AVS, Anne Brown, President, 2831 Doug Smith Dr, Halifax, B3L 3T6

ONTARIO

AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL ONTARIO, Beverley Williams, President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

HERITAGE AVS, Brian Krick, President, 406 Tapleytown Rd, Stoney Creek, L8J 3K6

LAKESHORE AVS, Vivian Beeching, President, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

LONDON AVS, Betty Wilson, President, 814 Riverside Dr., London, N6H 2SD

OAKVILLE AVS, Josephina Fitzwilliam, President, 2120 Parkway Dr, Burlington, L7P 1S4

OTTAWA AVS, Richard Harriman, President, 2395 Ogilvie Rd, Gloucester, K1G 7N9

TORONTO AVS, Jean Hamilton, President, 130 Wishing Well Dr, Agincourt, M1T 1J7

TORONTO GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Daphne Yaremko, President, C/o 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

CHARLOTTETOWN AVS, Claude Whitenect, President, 57 Lewis Pt Blvd, Charlottetown, C1E 7J6

QUEBEC

CLUB DES VIOLETES AFRICAINES, Pierrette Marquis, President, 80 Cairns Branby, Granby, J2G 6R2

CLUB VIOLETES LONGUEUIL, Denise Gagnon, President, CP 21126 Succ Jacques Cartier, Longueuil, J4J 5J4

LES VIOLETES SAGUENEENNES, Jean-Paul Chayer, President, 2109 St Philippe, Jonquiere, G7S 4P3

SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE, Nicole Charbonneau, President, 4101 Sherbrooke Rue Est, Montreal, H1X 2B2

SASKATCHEWAN

CAREFREE GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Gloria Martin, Treasurer, 298 Michene Drive, Regina, S4V 0J4

CAREFREE GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Florence Duesterbeck, President, 2235 Montreal St, Regina, S4P 1J7

NUTANA VIOLET CLUB, Alma Jones, President, 1638 E Heights, Saskatoon, S7J 3B6

ENGLAND

SAINTPAULIA & HOUSEPLANT SOCIETY, F B F Dunningham, MBE, Treasurer, 33 Church Rd Newbury Prk, Ilford, 1G2 7ET

MEXICO

PRIMER CLUB DE VIOLETAS, Alejandrina B De Guererro, President, PO Box 1688, Monterrey N L Cp 64000

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TRANSVAAL AVS, Lana Marais, President, Box 11141, Centurion, 0046

SOUTH AFRICA

KZN AVS, Wendy Low, President, 2 Cowell Pl, Escombe, 4093

USAMBARA VIOLET ASA, Rosie Katzeff, President, 168 A Voortrekker Rd, Goodwood, 7460

TAIWAN

Taiwan African Violet Club, Fu Chen Tung, President, 4 Lane 61 Kuo Shan 3rd Rd, Kao-Hsiung, 804

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

- CAPITAL CITY AVS OF MONTGOMERY**, Linda Boyd, President, 239 Nottingham Rd, Montgomery, 36109-3723
COVINGTON AVS, Myra Benton, President, RR 6 Box 270, Andalusia, 36420-9156
EARLY BIRD VIOLET CLUB, Gwen Johnson, President, 5105 Hollow Log Ln, Birmingham, 35244-1925
HUNTSVILLE AVS, Doyle Haynes, President, 7900 Regent Cir SW Apt 1, Huntsville, 35802-1419
MONTGOMERY AVS, Marty Davis, President, 2051 County Road 59, Prattville, 36067-8032

ALASKA

- AURORA BOREALIS AVS**, Helen Krumley, President, 6609 E 12th Ave, Anchorage, 99504-1737
LAST FRONTIER AVS, Patricia Gordon, President, PO Box 878809, Wasilla, 99687-8809

ARIZONA

- DESERT SUN AVS**, Barbara Vander Leest PhD, President, PO Box 733, Carefree, 85377-0733
ROADRUNNER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Rosemary Lort, President, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale, 85254-1707
TUCSON AVS, Lila Klepper, 5561 E Miles Cir, Tucson, 85712-5240

ARKANSAS

- BELLA VISTA AVS**, Beth Tallant, President, 2103 SE 8th St, Bentonville, 72712-6550
GREEN THUMB AVC, Charlotte Jenkins, President, 2116 Dee Ave, Springdale, 72762-4039
NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS AVS, Julie Butler, President, 50 John Shelton Rd, Jacksonville, 72076

CALIFORNIA

- AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**, Iris Keating, President, 149 Loretto Ct, Claremont, 91711-1739
AV JUDGES COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Barbara Elkin, President, 2855 Gayle Ln, Auburn, 95602-9674
AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, Anne Jantzen, President, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell, 95008-2759
AVS OF SOUTH BAY, Irene Thomas, President, 1199 Lyons St, Redwood City, 94061-2262
AVSA JUDGES COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CA, Leonard Re, President, 9144 Helm Ave, Fountain Valley, 92708
BAJA OREGON BLOOMERS, Leslie Jones, President, PO Box 839, Yreka, 96097-0839
BAKERSFIELD AVS, Nancy Johnston, President, 2719 California Ave, Bakersfield, 93304-1002
BURBANK AVS, Susan Eyraud, President, 10729 Sharon Ave, Shadow Hills, 91040-1731
CAPITAL CITY AVS, Cindi Nofziger, President, 256 Cole Ct, Woodland, 95695-2894
CARLSBAD AVS, Faye Shirley, President, 3747 Vista Campana S Unit 24, Oceanside, 92057-8225
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AVS, Renee Wilson, President, 5086 Bangor Ave, Kingsburg, 93631-9430
DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, L Mae Mendes, President, 3521 Montclair Rd, Cameron Park, 95682-9079
FANCY BLOOMERS AVS, Byron Borck, President, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
FOOTHILL AVS, Chris Hedberg, President, 1627 Brigden Rd, Pasadena, 91104-3128

- GRANADA HILLS AVS**, George Delafrance, President, 8835 Swinton Ave, North Hills, 91343-4723
HUMBOLDT COUNTY AVS, Lori McCrigler, President, 106 Page Way, Fortuna, 95540-9723
MONTROSE AVS, Carroll R. McCarroll, President, 4100 Perlita Ave, Los Angeles, 90039-1312
NORTHERN CA COUNCIL OF AVS, Kathy Willoughby, President, 336 Chardonnay Cir, Clayton, 94517-1428
ORANGE COUNTY AVS, Diane Bott, President, 8228 E Blackwillow Cir Apt 214, Anaheim, 92808-1979
POMONA VALLEY AVS, Estelle Orlini, President, 8262 Arrow Hwy, Rancho Cucamonga, 91730-4203
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AVS, Bernadine Poulsen, President, 7918 Teesdale Ave, North Hollywood, 91605-3907
SAN JOAQUIN AVS, Pat A. Soares, President, 408 N Sherman Ave, Manteca, 95336-3907
SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, Al Cornibe, President, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, 95060-2442
SIERRA VIOLET LOVERS, Connie Byars, President, 24225 Road 224, Lindsay, 93247-9000
SOUTH COAST AVS, Jacquie Eisenhut, President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance, 90505-3011
THOUSAND OAKS AVS, Mary Pat Weber, President, 4290 Mistymeadow St, Moorpark, 93021-2746
TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, Rosita Roser, President, 12985 South Ln, Redlands, 92373-7445
TUSTANA AVS, Denzel M. Probert, President, 2215 Santa Ana Ave, Costa Mesa, 92627-1835
VENTURA COUNTY AVS, Florence Naylor, President, 478 Arcade Dr, Ventura, 93003-4502

COLORADO

- GLOXINIA GESNERIAD GROWERS**, Norah Otto, President, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route Nederland, 80466-9626
HAPPINESS IS AVS, Betty E. Margetts, President, 1603 Linden St, Longmont, 80501-2451
HI COUNTRY JUDGES WORKSHOP, Parker E. Tracy, President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder, 80303-5915
LOVELAND SWEETHEART VIOLETTES, Trudy Brekel, President, 14442 Garfield St, Brighton, 80601-7738
PIKES PEAK AVS, Shirley Stilley, President, 1709 Sherman St, Colorado Springs, 80909-2428
ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, Fran Ratte, President, PO Box 382, Black Hawk, 80422-0382
THE AVS OF DENVER CHAPTER 1, Parker E. Tracy, President, 620 S 41st St, Boulder, 80303-5915
THE VIOLETEERS, Linda Thompson, President, 3351 S Field St Apt 168, Denver, 80227-4632
ULTRA VIOLET CLUB, Geneva Holmes, President, 8810 Hooker Way, Westminster, 80030-3336

CONNECTICUT

- CENTRAL CONNECTICUT AVS**, Doreen G. Lay, President, 97 Winthrop Rd, Windsor, 06095-1920
NAUGATONIC AVS, Edna Rourke, President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129
NUTMEG STATE AVS, Doreen Lay, President, 97 Winthrop Rd, Windsor, 06095-1920
SILVERMINE AVS, Jean Simons, President, 26 Jennie Ln, Westport, 06880-6001

THIMBLE ISLAND AVS, Carolyn Gaffan, President, 450 2nd Ave,
West Haven, 06516-5135
WINDSOR AVS, Marcia Kilpatrick, President, 139 Kenyon Rd,
Hampton, 06247-1112

DELAWARE

DELAWARE AVS, Elaine McCracken, President, 14 S Stuyvesant
Dr, Wilmington, 19809-3432

FLORIDA

ALABAMA AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Louise Merrett, President,
4200 Croydon Rd, Pensacola, 32514-6814
AV ASSOCIATION OF GARDENERS, Debbie Chapman, President,
2829 Blind Owl Dr, Orlando, 32822-7843
AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, Christel Collier, President, 1203
Greenview Dr, Lakeland, 33805-4715
AVC OF DAYTONA, Pat Crowley, President, 3051 Princeton Ave,
Daytona Beach, 32118-5130
AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, Frances Crissman, President, PO
Box 415, Shalimar, 32579-0415
AVS OF JACKSONVILLE, Barbara Murdoch, President, 5129
Birkenhead Rd, Jacksonville, 32210-4001
AVS OF PENSACOLA, George Starr, President, 2602 Graupera St,
Pensacola, 32507-1637
CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, Patti Schwindt, President, 1625 S
Delaney Ave, Orlando, 32806-3054
EDISON AVC, Shirley A Davis, President, PO Box 6083, Fort Myers
Beach, 33932-6083
FANTASY VC, Fran Carson, President, 3152 Deltona Blvd, Spring
Hill, 34606-3114
FIRST LAKE LAND AVS, Stephen Jank, President, 197 Wood Hall
Dr, Mulberry, 33860-8522
GULF AVC, Blanche E. Foltz, President, 918 SE 28th Ter, Cape Coral,
33904-2924
HEART OF FLORIDA, Russell L. Martin, President, 12741 Lower
River Blvd, Orlando, 32828-9003
HEART OF JACKSONVILLE AVS, Lucy Walls, President, 11453
Americana Ln, Jacksonville, 32218-4045
MID POLK AVS, Lucille Griffin, President, PO Box 1411, Lake
Alfred, 33850-1411
MIRACLE STRIP AVS, Farris Simmons, President, 2923 N Kirkwell
Ave, Panama City, 32405-5738
SARASOTA AVS, Deborah Conley, President, 2824 Wilkinson Rd,
Sarasota, 34231-2800
SUMMER LACE AVS, Gail Chase, President, 1528 Pineview Dr,
Tallahassee, 32301-4918
SUNCOAST AVS, Karen Boosinger, President, 10836 Forest Run
Cir, Bradenton, 34202-9743
TAMPA AVS, Jo Anne Martinez, President, 809 Taray de Avila,
Tampa, 33613-1048
TAMPA BAY GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Mollie Howell, President,
1855 McCauley, Clearwater, 33765-1512
THE NITE BLOOMERS AVS, Kym Belvin, President, 9153
Runnymede Rd, Jacksonville, 32257-5243
THE VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, Jennifer Kellum,
President, 15831 SW 54th Pl, Fort Lauderdale, 33331-3376
TREASURE COAST AVS, Ida Hawkins, President, 8807 S Indian
River Dr, Fort Pierce, 34982-7857
UPPER PINELLAS AVS, James H. Smith, President, 1449 Paloma
Ln, Dunedin, 34698-4317

GEORGIA

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, Laura Walker, President, 1123
Cherokee Trl # 11048, Jasper, 30143-7242
CLASSIC CITY AVS, Marie Cooper, President, 280 Cherokee Ave,
Athens, 30606-4308
DIXIE AVS, Pierce Cumpton, President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner
Robins, 31088-4170
GEORGIA AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, Joan F Cumpton,
President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170
GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, Margie Kotliar, President, 112
Skyview Ct, Athens, 30606-3847
GEORGIA STATE AV COUNCIL, Sarah McGaha, President, 4925
Howard Rd, Cumming, 30040-5207
HIGH HOPES VC OF SOUTH ATLANTA, Ramona Like, President,
6423 Woodstone Ter, Morrow, 30260-1734
MASTER CITY AV & GESNERIAD, Sharon Miles, President, 1954
Liberty Church Rd, Hephzibah, 30815-4421
TARA AVC, Sue Ann Blackmon, President, 660 Sigman Rd NW,
Conyers, 30012-3630

HAWAII

AVS OF HAWAII, Gwen Shigekane, President, 46-312 Auna St,
Kaneohe, 96744-4111

ILLINOIS

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, Edward Johnson, President, 4901
N Ozanam Ave, Norridge, 60706-3203
BARRINGTON BLOOMERS AVS, Nikki Collard, President, 27547
N Forest Garden Rd, Wauconda, 60084-2841
FORT MASSIC AVS, Kim Thomasson, President, 3658 Mermet Rd,
Belknap, 62908-2302
FOX VALLEY AVS, Dixie Williams, President, 3211 White Eagle Dr,
Naperville, 60564-4604
GATEWAY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Fred Roth, President, 1055
N Metter Ave, Columbia, 62236-1213
GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, Barbara Goodsell, President,
429 Cherry Ln, Glenview, 60025-4576
ILLINOIS AVS INC, Anna Jean Landgren, President, 2450 Iroquois
Rd, Willmette 6009-1368
LAKE SHORE AVS, Morgan Simmons, President, 2210 Hartzell St,
Evanston, 60201-1424
MARGARET SCOTT AVS, Lois Crider, President, 2172 County
Road 1850 N, Saint Joseph, 61873-9408
METROPOLITAN AVS OF PEORIA, Gary Duchien, President, 117
Lynn St, Washington, 61571-2836
NORTHERN ILLINOIS GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Bob Nicholson,
President, 517 Seegers Rd, Des Plaines, 60016-3019
QUAD CITIES AVS, Cheryl Hughes, President, 3614 15th Avenue
Ct, Moline, 61265-3456
TWIN CITIES AVS, Arlene Ashley, President, RR 6, Bloomington,
61704-9806

INDIANA

HOOSIER AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Linda G. Lucht,
President, 8376 Webster Ct, Crown Point, 46307-9663
INDIANA STATE AVC, Chris Poore, President, 9414 Shenandoah
Dr, Indianapolis, 46229-2062
INDY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Kathie Jeffries, President, 11200 S
US Highway 31, Elizabethtown, 47232-9576

IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY VIOLET CLUB, Barbara Pershing, President, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls, 50613-9412
EVENING AVC, Judy Zegers, President, P O Box 233, Sully, 50251-0233

KANSAS

LAWRENCE AVC, Raymond Russell, President, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence, 66046-4617
MANHATTAN AVS, Doris Hofman, President, 3507 Musil Dr, Manhattan, 66503-2550
MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, Pat Richards, President, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe, 66062-3004
TOPEKA AVS, Jean Patterson, President, 1247 SW Fillmore St, Topeka, 66604-1166
WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, Mary A. Smith, President, 2034 S Park Rdg, Wichita, 67209-3279

KENTUCKY

AVS OF KENTUCKIANA, Charlotte Stewart, President, 4511 Shenandoah Dr, Louisville, 40241-1865

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA AVS, Joan Pippens, President, 9996 Highway 165 S, Forest Hill, 71430-9660
BATON ROUGE AVS, Fran Spear, President, 7660 Amite Church Rd, Denham Springs, 70706-0907
JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, Genelle Armstrong, President, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152
LOUISIANA CNCL OF AV JDGS & GROWERS*, Nancy David, President, 110 Saint Jude St, New Roads, 70760-3720
SUNDOWNERS AVS, Robert Truax, President, 408 Hearthstone Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-5007
THE VERBEAU AVC, Jo Beth Jeane, President, 197 William Ray Jeane Rd, Leesville, 71446-6944
TOP CHOICE AVS, Ruby Parker, President, 6229 Trailwood Ter, Shreveport, 71119-7232

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE AVC, Janet Haag, President, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore, 21212-2020
POTOMAC COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Ken Barbi, President, 1809 View Top Ct, Annapolis, 21401-5873

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL SEASONS AVC, Nancy Manozzi, President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham, 01702-6128
BAY STATE AVS, Nancy Manozzi, President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham, 01702-6128
EMERALD NECKLACE AVC, Ruth Grieco, President, 32 Saint Paul St, Brookline, 02446-6534
MOBY DICK AVC, John Cook, President, 28 Minot St, Falmouth, 02540-2840
THE QUANNAPOWITT AVC, Bob Clark, President, 118 Byron Ave, Lawrence 01841-4444

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE AVS, Loreen Callentne, President, 2850 Green Rd, West Branch, 48661-9609

MINNESOTA

AFRICAN VIOLET STUDY GROUP, Gen Zondlo, President, 2580 Kenzie Ter, Minneapolis, 55418-4145
AVS OF MINNESOTA, Kathy Lahti, President, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale, 55302-3614

FARGO-MOORHEAD AVC, Elaine Landa, President, 1006 10th St N, Moorhead, 56560-1552

JUDGES COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA, Sharon E. Johnson, President, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines,

LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, Robert Aurandt, Treasurer, 2144 Sloan St, Maplewood, 55117-2029

MERRIAM PARK BLOOMERS, Jane Donaho, President, 1533 Grantham St, Saint Paul, 55108-1449

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, Barbara Werness, President, 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, 55448-7034

MISSISSIPPI

HATTIESBURG AVC, Bobbie Herring, President, PO Box 464, Petal, 39465-0464

MISSOURI

AMETHYST AVC, Mary Ann Switzer, President, 1925 Lone Trail Ln, Chesterfield, 63017-5006

AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, Shirley Swait, President, 722 N Forest Ave, Independence, 64050-2320

GATEWAY WEST GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Gary Dunlap, President, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, Catherine Ross, President, RR 2 Box 165, Moberly, 65270-9620

INNER CITY AVS, Barbara Fisher, President, 5119 Longhorn Trl, Florissant, 63033-7706

KATY TRAIL AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB, Homer Blanton, President, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles, 63304-7945

M K O DYN-O-MITE AVS, Doris F. Carson, President, 1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin, 64804-0649

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, Pat Dunlap, President, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

MID-AMERICA AVS, Nancy Moerer, President, 413 NE 114th Ter, Kansas City, 64155-1231

SHO-ME AVC, Doris Brown, President, 33706 E Spencer Rd, Oak Grove, 64075-7249

SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF AVS, Cathy Cale, President, 1154 S Pickwick Ave, Springfield, 65804

ST LOUIS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Gary Dunlap, President, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

THE PIED PIPERS CLUB, Marilyn Evensen, President, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin, 63011-2748

THE UNPREDICTABLE'S AVS, Marian Schaaf, President, 8505 S Karr Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9122

WEST COUNTY AVC, Doris Natale, President, 2325 E Royal Ct, Saint Louis, 63131-1941

NEBRASKA

GRAND ISLAND AVS, Shannon Ahlman, President, 310 N. Walnut St, Grand Island, 68801-5960

LINCOLN AVS, Shannon Ahlman, President, 310 N Walnut St, Grand Island, 68801-5960

OMAHA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Karen Murphy, President, 5605 N 69th St, Omaha, 68104-1510

NEVADA

RENO-SPARKS AVS, Carol Mark, President, 1823 Fairlie Ct, Sparks, 89434-8883

NEW JERSEY

AV CLUB OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, Sandra Skalski, President, 516 Macintosh Dr, Mullica Hill, 08062-9474

AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, Roy Goebel, President, 39 Radtke Rd, Randolph, 07869-3812

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, Joseph De Simion, President, 749 Park Ave, Oradell, 07649-2009

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, Dale Jasaitis, President, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown, 08505-2912

GARDEN STATE AVC, Beverly Lueschen, President, 30 Farm Rd Apt 3, Somerville, 08876-4462

NEW JERSEY CNCL/AV JUDGES, Frank Senna, President, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland, 07436-3501

SEAVIEW AVS, Lew Whitaker, President, 30 Grand Teton Ave, Howell, 07731-9000

TRISTATE AV COUNCIL, Gary Thurman, President, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown, 08505-2912

UNION COUNTY CHAPTER AVS, Janet Riemer, President, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington, 08534-4007

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, Margaret Schmierer, President, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque, 87112-6538

ALBUQUERQUE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY, Judy Sturtevant, President, 1557 Summit Hills Dr NE, Albuquerque, 87112-6538

NEW YORK

AVS OF GREATER NEW YORK, Elsa Rockelein, President, 7825 84th St, Flushing, 11385-7610

AVS OF ROCHESTER, Barbara Gogoll, President, 804 Burritt Rd, Hilton, 14468-9725

AVS OF SYRACUSE, James Wildman, President, 133 Rosemount Dr, Syracuse, 13205-3011

AVS OF WESTERN NEW YORK, Fred Packer, President, 20 Mafalda Dr, Buffalo, 14215-2018

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, Andrea Freeman, President, 434 Bullock Rd, Slingerlands, 12159-3411

COPPER CITY AVS, Robin Yager, President, RR 1 Box 540C, Blossvale, 13308-9771

HERITAGE AVS OF LONG ISLAND, Nancy Marquardt, President, 47 Sperry Ct, New Hyde Park, 11040

HUDSON HIGHLAND AVS, Carol Ann Burrell, President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446

LONG ISLAND AVS, Diane Lohan, President, 499 Keith Ln, West Islip, 11795-3433

MARK TWAIN AVS, Louise Lorenson, President, 339 Bentley Rd, Wellsburg, 14894-9756

NEW YORK STATE AVS, Irwin Wagman, Treasurer, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Paul Kroll, President, 4325 Two Rod Rd, East Aurora, 14052-9693

SWEET WATER AVS, Carolyn Klein, President, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107

THE AVS OF STATEN ISLAND, Leonore Gugliada, President, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island, 10306-1232

NORTH CAROLINA

AVS OF CHARLOTTE, Betty Garland, President, 8112 Deerhorn Ct, Charlotte, 28227-0300

FIRST GOLDSBORO AVS, Lorena Bunn, President, RR 5 Box 615B, Snow Hill, 28580-9446

GREEN THUMB AVS, Gene Tritt, President, 1409 Hurley St, Roanoke Rapids, 27870-2331

PIEDMONT-TRIAD AVS, Mary Cundiff, President, 5401 Forest Oaks Dr, Greensboro, 27406-8317

TRIANGLE AVS, Libbie Glembocki, President, 103 Downing Pl, Apex, 27502-9342

NORTH DAKOTA

THE BLOOMIN' VIOLETS, Jo Kirby, President, 925 N 13th St, Bismarck, 58501-4219

OHIO

AVS OF DAYTON, Susan Allison, President, 136 Zengel Dr, Centerville, 45459-4412

CINCINNATI AVS, Margie Slye, President, 2161 Bethel New Richmond Rd, New Richmond, 45157-9655

COLUMBUS AVS, Thelma Miller, President, 1771 Kermit Ave, Columbus, 43207-1640

PARMATOWN AVC, Linda Neumann, President, 11620 Mapleridge Dr, North Royalton, 44133-2904

SPRINGFIELD AVC, Betty L. Bartley, President, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield, 45504-3513

SUNSET AVS, Susan Miller, President, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center, 43532-9405

TOWN & COUNTRY AVS, Gertrude Morabito, President, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville, 44077-2117

TRI-CITY AVS, James Castelee, President, 753 Windsor Rd, Troy, 45373-1133

VIOLETS & FRIENDS AV CLUB, Terena Stotler, President, 1027 State Route 589, Sidney, 45365-8783

OKLAHOMA

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, Pat Sutton, President, 1707 S 77th East Ave, Tulsa, 74112-7817

GREEN COUNTRY AV STUDY CLUB, Mary E. Hill, President, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa, 74108-3901

LAWTON AVS, Patsy Worthen, President, 7 NW 27th St, Lawton, 73505-6209

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, Mary Hill, Treasurer, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa, 74108-3901

OREGON

HEART OF THE VALLEY AVS, Elise Ross, President, 634 SW 54th St, Corvallis, 97333-2928

PORTLAND AVS, Christy Duvendack, President, 17389 Banyan Ln, Lake Oswego, 97034-6901

PENNSYLVANIA

AVS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA, Susan S. Reis, President, 1181 Williams St, State College, 16801-6310

AVS OF LOWER BUCKS COUNTY, Joan Reed, President, 119 August Ln, Lansdale, 19446-6715

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, Marianne Gershon, President, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield, 19440-3269

AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, Barbara Jones, President, 8 Karen Dr, Malvern, 19355-2408

DELAWARE VALLEY COUNCIL OF AV JUDGES, Kurt Eckard, President, 453 Seville St, Philadelphia, 19128-3632

HAPPY HOUR AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, Louise McFarland, President, 801 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, 19444-1723

THE PITTSBURGH VIOLET & GESNERIAD SOCIETY, Carla Ryan, President, 9518 Meadow Rd, Allison Park, 15101-1741

RHODE ISLAND

MOBY DICK AVC, Ruth Warren, Treasurer, 99 Hancock St Apt 254, Tiverton, 02878-2360

SOUTH CAROLINA

FIRST AVS OF SPARTANBURG, Elizabeth Moricle, President, 706 Meadowbrook Dr, Spartanburg, 29307-2538

FLOWERTOWN VIOLET CLUB, Uldene Short, President, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville, 29485-8608

PALMETTO AVS, Trudi W. Christensen, President, 200 Lands End Blvd Apt 1015, Myrtle Beach, 29572-7055

SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA AVC, Miriam Greene, President, 2008 S Blauvelt Ave, Sioux Falls, 57105-3223

TENNESSEE

AVS OF EAST TENNESSEE, Glenys Nappo, President, 117 W Bryn Mawr Cir, Oak Ridge, 37830-8208

BLUFF CITY AVC, Kathy Hildebrand, President, 6470 Birkenhead Rd, Memphis, TN, 38134-5950

MEMPHIS AVS, Ann Shirley, President, 7150 Cedar Rd, Memphis, 38135-1904

NASHVILLE AVS, Peggy Adamson, President, 1613 Hampton St, Nashville, 37207-4309

VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, Peggy Adamson, President, 1613 Hampton St, Nashville, 37207-4309

TEXAS

ALPHA AVS OF DALLAS, Grace Davis, President, 3418 Urban Dr, Garland, 75041-4628

AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, Geri Goins, President, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston, 77031-2220

AVS OF BEAUMONT, Alice Wilder, President, 8895 Jean Dr, Beaumont, 77707-4604

CEN-TEX RAINBOW AVC, James Sneed, President, 906 Deorsam Dr, Copperas Cove, 76522-3606

CENTRAL TEXAS JUDGES COUNCIL, Joyce Kimbro, President, 4107 Wyldwood Rd, Austin, 78739-3010

CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, Sarah Stensland, President, 468 Glenmore St, Corpus Christi, 78412-2727

FIRST AUSTIN AVS, Gloria Dubose, President, PO Box 724, Austin, 78767-0724

FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, Paula Foster, President, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121

FIRST AVS OF DENTON, Anne Nicholas, President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428

FIRST AVS OF SAN ANTONIO, Jeanne Strattnner, President, 8439 Romney, San Antonio, 78250-2467

FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, Sue Ramser, President, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls, 76308-1908

FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, Ann Nicholas, President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428

FORT WORTH AVS, Tressie Baker, President, 103 Cedar Creek Dr, Azle, 76020-1213

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, Mary Walbrick, President, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls, 76310-3029

MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, Hector Becerra, Jr., President, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio, 78213-1935

MOONLIGHT AVS, Mural Fort, President, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills, 76180-8760

NASA AREA AVS, Suzanne Oberholtzer, President, 1915 Fir Tree Dr, League City, 77573-4960

NORTH TEXAS AV JUDGES COUNCIL, Mural Fort, President, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills, 76180-8760

OFFICE VIOLETS AND LUNCH, Joyce Stenger (C-87), President, 2450 Nasa Rd 1, Lockheed-Martin Co Houston, 77058-3711

PARK PLACE AV CLUB, Janette Regner, President, 7923 Glenlea St, Houston, 77061-2317

SAN MARCOS AVC, Susan Storey, President, 110 Rogers St, San Marcos, 78666-4715

SPRING BRANCH AVC, Lenora Munk, President, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston, 77080-5524

VALLEY AVS, Edith Baca, President, 901 McKee Dr, Edinburg, 78539-6028

VICTORIA AVS, Joanne Schrimsher, President, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474

UTAH

AVS OF UTAH, John Houser, President, 6840 W 3830 S, West Valley City, 84128-3813

VIRGINIA

BLACKSBURG AVS, K C. Arceneaux, President, 707 Ascot Ln, Blacksburg, 24060-4032

DANVILLE AVS, John Sullivan, President, 781 Inman Rd, Danville, 24541-8047

LYNNHAVEN AVS, Sandi Flora, President, 8019 Baywood Dr, Norfolk, 23518-3145

MID-ATLANTIC AVS, Sue Hoffmann, President, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach, 23452-3941

OLD DOMINION AVS OF NORTHERN VA, John Wilson, President, 10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas, 20111-4222

RICHMOND AVS, Sharon Long, President, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr, Richmond, 23233-4332

THE TIDEWATER AVS, Lynda Fairchild, President, 1779 Lafayette Dr, Hampton, 236104-1742

WASHINGTON

LONGVIEW AVC, Virginia Bailey, President, 103 John St, Kelso, 98626-1861

SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF TACOMA, Austin Grevious, President, 602 W Blaine St, Seattle, 98119-2928

SEATTLE AVS INC, Merri Naka, President, 7317 E Heather Way, Everett, 98203-5442

WISCONSIN

CROSSTOWN AVC, Alice Peterson, President, 3611 Mathias Way, Verona, 53593-9588

FIRST AVS OF JANESVILLE, Fay Skews, President, 10933 Cave of The Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds, 53517-9617

LATE BLOOMERS AVS, Linda Wendler, President, 123 Depot St, Footville, 53537-9999

MILWAUKEE AVS, Dorothy Fossum, President, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee, 53222-3522

OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, Cathy Heider, President, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro, 54963-9767

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, Arlene Garvens, President, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy, 53929-8834

WYOMING

CASPER BLOOMERS, Lita Snell, President, PO Box 2811, Mills, 82644-2811

THE SHERIDAN AVC, Debra Hanson, President, 1615 Holmes Ave, Sheridan, 82801-2210

1999 AVSA Commercial Members

(Editors Note: This is the Commercial List as reported by the AVSA office as of July 1, 1999. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA ALBERTA

BLOOMIN' BASEMENT, Ingrid Nelson, 224 Douglas Woods Point SE, Calgary, T2Z 2A7

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIOLETS IN VOGUE, Christine Estridge, 9249 Mainwaring Rd, Sidney, V8L 1J9

ONTARIO

ACA'S VIOLET-TREE, John Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd 80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

DUSTY'S HYBRID AFRICAN VIOLETS, Box 56538, Woodbridge, L4L 8V3

VIOLET BOUTIQUE, Patricia Orme, 40 Pellan Cres, Kanata, K2K 1J5

HOLLAND

HGT VAN DER KNAAP, Mariendyk 39, Honselersdijk, 2675

JAPAN

GARDEN CENTER, N-4 E-4 Chuo-ku, Sapporo, 060-0034

SOUTH AFRICA

Joan Halford, No 2 Newlands Park PO Box 370, Newlands Plaza Pretoria 0049

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

COUNTRY VIOLETS, Roy Henderson, 2010 Enon Rd, Webb, 36376-5834

ALASKA

HELEN KRUMREY, 6609 E 12th Ave, Anchorage, 99504-1737
BEVERLY'S VIOLETS, Beverly Hendricks, 4178 Apollo Dr, Anchorage, 99504-4511

ARIZONA

BARBARA FULLER, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson, 85710-1043
HATTIE BAGGETT, HC 2 Box 381, Tucson, 85735-9714
DESERT VIOLETS, Susan Merski, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson, 85712-2403

DOTTIE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, John & Dorothy Greer, 7462 E Desert Aire Dr, Tucson, 85730-3800

DR B'S DIGS, Barbara Vanderleest, PO Box 733, Carefree, 85377-0733

KACHINA AV AND SUPPLIES, Mark R Lort, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale, 85254-1707

ARKANSAS

SONJA'S VIOLETS, Sonja Holm, 15980 W Warden Rd, Omaha, 72662-9107

CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD W MUELLER, 1522 Sunset Dr, Vista, 92083-6533
LESLIE JONES, PO Box 839, Yreka, 96097-0839
GINI MCCANNE, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont, 91711-3461

AV ENTERPRISES PRESS, Pauline Bartholomew, 1404 N Tustin Ave Apt J4, Santa Ana, 92705-8632

HERBAL GARDEN'S, George Walsh, PO Box 38, Montara, 94037

HOOVER'S HYBRIDS, Darryl Hoover, 1507 W Fern Dr, Fullerton, 92833-2332

LAINY CERAMICS, Elaine A. Polick, 28506 Borgona, Mission Viejo, 92692-1641

MARIL PRODUCTS, INC, Anne Whitehair, 320 W 6th St, Tustin, 92780-4332

MARTEAL LTD, Dyna-gro, 1065 Broadway, San Pablo, 94806-2260

MIGHTY MINIS, Jean Stokes, 7318 Sahara Ct, Sacramento, 95828-3905

MUDHOLE PRODUCTIONS, Jeff Jones, 767 N Calle Rolph, Palm Springs, 92262-6152

OYAMA PLANTERS INC, George C Oyama, 1450 Post St Apt 1008, The Carlisle, San Francisco, 94109-6546

PHLOGISTICS, Florence Naylor, PO Box 1411, Ventura, 93002-1411

THE VELVET LEAF, Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax, 95713-9218

COLORADO

CHERYL MEYER, PO Box 862, Indian Hills, 80454-0862

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE, Douglas Crispin, 3147 S Broadway, Englewood, 80110-2423

VIOLETS OF THE WEST, Jean Marie Miller, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada, 80003-3943

CONNECTICUT

MARGARET FARGEOT, 235 Alps Rd, Branford, 06405-4745
VERILUX, INC., PO Box 2937, Stamford, 06906-0937

FLORIDA

ANDREW'S VIOLETS 'N' THINGS, Linda Andrews, 2801 Frontier Dr, Kissimmee, 34744-9301

ARLENE'S VIOLETS & CACTI, Arlene Alexander, 213 Turkey Crk, Alachua, 32615-9339

DUVAL'S VIOLETS AND CRAFTS, Ann L & Armand Duval, 8401 Bries Ln, Pensacola, 32514-3812

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Bill & BeBe Edwards, PO Box 1274, Gainesville, 32602-1274

VIOLETS FROM THE STARRS, George & Estelle Starr, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola, 32507-1637

GEORGIA

P J'S VIOLETS, Joan Cumpton, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170

TRAVIS' VIOLETS, Travis Davis, PO Box 42, Ochlocknee, 31773-0042

VIOLETS GALORE OF GEORGIA, Jim & Jean Wright, 8669 Lake Dr, Lithonia, 30058-6533

IDAHO

VIOLETS AND COUSINS, Jan Rankin, 7078 Garden Glen Ln, Boise, 83703-2312

ILLINOIS

PRAIRIE VIOLETS, Linda Stickney, PO Box 137, Maroa, 61756-0137

INDIANA

HOG WILD VIOLETRY, Judith Nuest, 524 E 1000 S, Kouts, 46347-9747

LOUISIANA

BAYOU VIOLETS, Genelle & Al Armstrong, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152

MARYLAND

THE BEHNKE NURSERIES, 11300 Baltimore Ave, Po Box 290 Beltsville, 20705-1923

VIOLET RAINBOW, Alice Bair, 1515 Bachmans Valley Rd, Westminster, 21158-3201

MASSACHUSETTS

CAPE COD VIOLETRY, John Cook, 28 Minot St, Falmouth, 02540-2840

MICHIGAN

ELIZABETH L. BUCK, PO Box 186, Clifford, 48727-0186

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY DON GEISS, Don Geiss, 4957 W Poverty Perch Rd, Frederic, 49733-9503

BAY VALLEY VIOLETS, Jamie Christensen, 5305 Nakoma Dr, Midland, 48640-2833

INDOOR GARDENING, Tina Dickhart, PO Box 527, Dexter, 48130-0527

MINNESOTA

MIDLAND VIOLETS, Donald Ness, 3667 Midland Ave, White Bear Lake, 55110-7307

SOURCE TECH BIO INC., 7449 Cahill Rd # 150, Edina, 55439-2731

MISSISSIPPI

H & H ENTERPRISES, Mary V Herrington, 34 Oleta Dr, Ellisville, 39437-9837

THE FLOWER CENTER, Bobbie H Beard, 3150 S Frontage Rd, Vicksburg, 39180-5253

MISSOURI

ART TRANSUE, 8704 E 92nd Pl, Kansas City, 64138-4658

BUTTRAM'S AFRICAN VIOLETS, J David Buttram, PO Box 193, Independence, 64051-0193

DAVE'S VIOLETS, David Harris, 1372 S Kentwood Ave, Springfield, 65804-0220

DUNLAP ENTERPRISES, Gary N Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

SCHULTZ COMPANY, 13260 Corporate Exchange Dr, Bridgeton, 63044-3720

NEBRASKA

KENT'S FLOWERS, Kent & Joyce Stork, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478

THE VIOLET SHOWROOM, Shannon Ahlman, 310 N Walnut St, Grand Island, 68801-5960

NEW YORK

MARTIN VIETTE NURSERIES, PO Box 10, Route 25A East Norwich, 11732-0010

RICHARD M WASMUND, 1609 Michigan Ave, Niagara Falls, 14305-2907

EDWARD JANOSICK, RR 1 Box 122, West Settlement Roxbury, 12474-9746

BAKER GREENHOUSE, Paul Davidson, 1113 Herkimer Rd, Utica, 13502-2706

CHAMPIONS AFRICAN VIOLETS, Ethel W. Champion, 8848 Van Hoesen Rd, Clay, 13041-9604

LYNDON LYON GREENHOUSES INC, Paul Sorano, PO Box 249, Dolgeville, 13329-0249

ROB'S MINI-O-LETS, Ralph & Olive Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009

SCOTT'S MIRACLE-GRO PRODUCTS INC, 800 Port Washington Blvd, Port Washington, 11050-3720

SMITH'S COUNTRY COTTAGE AV'S, G T Smith, 109 Ogden Parma Townline Rd, Spencerport, 14559-1623

VIOLET VENTURE, FAYANNE B Wagman, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104

VIOLETS BY APPOINTMENT, Bill Paauwe, 45 3rd St, West Sayville, 11796-1109

VIOLETS FUN PHOTO, Olive Ma Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009

NORTH CAROLINA

BLUEBIRD GREENHOUSE, Elizabeth Glembocki, 4821 Jessie Dr, Apex, 27502-8858

CAROUSEL OF VIOLETS, Bonnie N Cheek, 1403 S Stratford Rd # C, Winston Salem, 27103-2920

VIOLETS BY NAN JEFFERSON, Nan K. Jefferson, 1221 Mardele Ln, Winston Salem, 27105-1453

OHIO

B & E CERAMICS, Betty Grant, 10290 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, 45242-5100

GREEN CIRCLE GROWERS, Susan M Stieve, 15650 State Route 511 # 2, Oberlin, 44074-9465

PAT'S PATCH, Pat Hancock, PO Box 8085, West Chester, 45069-8085

VIOLETS PLUS, Susan Miller, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center, 43532-9405

OKLAHOMA

A NEW LEAF INC, Jackie Deatherage, 2306 S 1st Pl, Broken Arrow, 74012-7137

J F INDUSTRIES, Juanita Freeman, HC 65 Box 309-1, Pryor, 74361-9644

MCCAWLEY'S AFRICAN, Edna R. McCawley, 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa, 74112-6929

OREGON

KERRY'S VIOLETS, Karyle Pasley, 1140 7th Ave, Gold Hill, 97525-9632

PENNSYLVANIA

SUSAN SHIELDS REIS, 1181 William St, State College, 16801-6310

MELODY HARTMAN, 715 Kames Hill Rd, Columbia, 17512-8422

EXCELSIOR DIRECT INC, 128 E Grant St Ste 204, Lancaster, 17602-2854

TINARI GREENHOUSES, Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley, 19006-6007

VIOLET RAINBOW III, Mahlen Petry, 1590 Cranberry Rd, York Springs, 17372-8851

VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS, Naomi Martin, 3217 State Line Rd, Waynesboro, 17268-9551

TENNESSEE

HOLTKAMP GREENHOUSES, Reinhold Holtkamp, PO Box 78565, Nashville, 37207-8565

TEXAS

- ACREE CREATIONS**, Yvonne Acree, 3235 Lockmoor Ln,
Dallas, 75220-1631
- AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP**, Lenora & J C Munk, 2015 Bauer Dr,
Houston, 77080-5524
- BIG THICKET VIOLETS**, Mark Mason, RR 1 Box 312, Silsbee,
77656-9801
- HILL COUNTRY AFRICAN VIOLETS**, Ken Froboese, 32005 IH
10 W, Boerne, 78006-9240
- JO'S VIOLETS**, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Dr, Victoria,
77901-4474
- NORMA'S ANGEL 'N STUFF**, Norma Stubblefield, 1910
Westmead Dr Apt 3711, Houston, 77077-4725
- PLEASANT HILL AFRICAN VIOLETS**, Ruth Goeke, 4851
Pieper Rd, Brenham, 77833-7072
- SHIRLEY'S HOUSE OF VIOLETS**, Shirley L. Sanders, 1034
Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446
- SWIFTS'**, June Swift, PO Box 28012, Dallas, 75228-0012
- TEAS NURSERY**, Paul Downs, 4400 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire,
77401-4306

- THE MINI MANSION**, Hector Becerra, Jr, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San
Antonio, 78213-1935
- VOLKMANN BROS**, Walter Volkmann, 2714 Minert St, Dallas,
75219-1150

VIRGINIA

- ABIGAIL'S GARDEN**, Abbie Eagle-pence, PO Box 448,
Haymarket, 20168-0448

WASHINGTON

- ALANNAH'S AFRICAN VIOLETS**, Alannah Regan, PO Box 2,
Danville, 99121-0002
- CRESCENT BAY GARDENS**, David Erickson, 51393 Highway
112, Port Angeles, 98363-8765
- HENRY'S PLANT FARM**, 4522 132nd St SE, Snohomish,
98296-8916

WISCONSIN

- BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE**, Marcia Belisle, 4041 N Metnik
Rd, Ojibwa, 54862-4132



Pink Satin Pillow

Hybridized by: S. Sorano
Standard

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Little Snow White

Exhibited by: Beverly Williams
Hybridized by: R. Nadeau
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

In the four-plus years as Chairman of the Booster Fund, I have received hundreds of contributions, for various reasons. There are many of our dedicated members who can be depended upon for annual donations. Some members donate speaker's fees and we have judges who contribute their travel expenses. I get notification from the Beaumont office of members and affiliates who give monetary gifts for special projects. There are also many memorial donations. Each contribution is deeply appreciated.

However, in mid-May, I received a check from the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council, in Denver, CO. The donation was to honor two of their retired Council members, for all their years of hard work and dedication. This is the first time I have ever received this type of donation.

To the Rocky Mountain Council, on behalf of AVSA, I salute your enthusiasm and I do hope you are starting a new trend toward donations of appreciation for our worthy members.

CONTRIBUTIONS 1 APRIL TO 31 MAY 1999

Mid-Polk AVS, Auburndale, FL \$10.00 <i>In memory of Shirley Kocher, sister of Jean Marie Ross</i>	Allen Foust, Orange, NJ \$4.00	Diane Keller, Austin, TX \$5.00 <i>Apply toward copier for Beaumont office</i>
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE 15.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expenses for Betti Roth, Barbara Jones and Judi Criswell, AVS Springfield, PA</i>	Hattieann Gilbert, Sandys, Bermuda 5.00	Linda Bowers, Cranston, RI 10.00
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE 10.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expenses for Janet Haag, AVS Baltimore, MD</i>	Meredith Hall, Houston, TX 25.00 <i>In memory of former AVSA President, L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>	H.B. Maddox, Gardiner, WA 5.00
Nancy Yano, Honolulu, HI 10.00	Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI 25.00	Doris Ande, Riverside, CA 10.00
Moir Hasbrouck, Tarpon Springs, FL 3.00	Rocky Mountain AV Council, Denver, CO 20.00 <i>This donation is made to honor Bob & Evelyn Hull, retired members of the Council, for all their years of hard work and dedication.</i>	Anonymous, Chicago, IL 7.00
William Ryan, Houston, TX 20.00 <i>Apply toward new copier for the Beaumont office</i>	Elizabeth Kuen, East Haven, CT \$25.00	Jean McIlvanie, Denver, CO 1.00
Mrs. Donald Mc Lean, Barrington, IL 2.00	Frances Forbes, Stockbridge, GA 5.00	Kathryn Thielan, Belleville, IL 5.00
Helen Hansen, Silver Spring, MD 10.00	Walter Baer, Tallahassee, FL 2.00	Mrs. Toshiko Nagai, Saitama, Japan 30.00
Harriet Reichenback, Miami, FL 1.00	Bahamas AVS, Nassau, Bahamas 10.00	Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA 30.00
Tristate AV Council (NJ, NY & PA) 25.00	Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA 1.00	Bill & Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA 10.00 <i>In memory of former AVSA President, L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>
Mrs. Kazuo Sakuma, Tokyo, Japan 30.00	Mary Aranda, Mexico City, Mexico 5.00	AVSA Booster Fund Promotion
Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY 10.00	Lincoln AVS, Lincoln, NE 25.00 <i>In fond memory of Gene Reifschneider</i>	Table, Houston, TX \$1,048.42
Delaware AVS, Wilmington, DE 15.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expenses for Susan Hanna, Enid Branson and Laura Shannon, AVS Philadelphia, PA</i>	Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO 5.00	"MANY MANY THANKS" to the members who donated merchandise or who worked the table.
Cynthia de Corres, Republic of Panama 20.00	Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL 10.00	Dorothy & Reg. Townsend, Australia; Edna Rowke, Shelton, CT; Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL;
Viking Violette of Wisconsin 10.00 <i>In memory of Monroe Trapp, husband of Palma Trapp</i>	Blackburg AVS, Blackburg, VA 2.00	Barbara Elkin, Auburn, CA; Betty Callaghan, Fairless Hills, PA; AVC of Florida; Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA; Laurene Jones, Annadale, VA;
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR 2.00	Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH 10.00	Kazuo Horikoshi, Tokyo; Northern California Affiliated Clubs; Linda's Lovely Stamps, Sebring, FL;
Allen Krueger, Zanesville, OH 7.00	Carolyn Wallach, Fenton, MO 10.00	Bev Promersberger, Monument, CO; Irene Merrell, Oconomowoc, WI; AnnaMarie Mays, Alexandria, VA; Francis Ratti, Black Hawk, CO; Town & Country
Florence Silverstein, Norwalk, CT 6.00	Springfield AVS, Springfield, PA 25.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expenses for Terry Celano and Carol Callaghan, Delaware AVS and Susan Hanna, AVS of Philadelphia, PA</i>	AVS, Painesville, OH; Pat Richards, Olathe, KS; Gertrude Morabito, Painesville, OH; and Bill & Kay Lyons, Levittown, PA
Mary Robinson, Williamsburg, VA 10.00	James Welch, San Leandro, CA 25.00	TOTAL \$1,622.42
	Naomi Heller, Philadelphia, PA 2.00	
	Rosemary Miller, Jasonville, IN 2.00	
	Anita Mc Creary, Pasadena, MD 2.00	

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from APRIL 1, 1999 - May 31, 1999

Chester Landis, Ottawa Lake, MI \$ 10.00	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Foster, Mesquite, TX \$25.00 <i>(in memory of Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.)</i>	Tristate African Violet Council, Bordentown, NJ . . . \$25.00
Heather Moyer, Harrisburg, PA 2.00	Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO 5.00	Cynthia C. Black, Denver, CO 2.00
Violet Fane, Michigan City, IN 10.00	Mildred Knorr, Springfield, PA 5.00	Harriet Reichenback, Miami, FL 1.00
Judith Hess, Greendale, WI 3.00	Chris Gauthier, Coeur D Alene, ID 2.00	Amethyst African Violet Club, St. Louis, MO . . . 15.00 <i>(in memory of Florence Stein)</i>
Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN 10.00	Jean Milstead, Stanhope, NJ 5.00	Diane Keller, Austin, TX 5.00
Albert Maddux, Milton, FL 10.00	Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH 10.00	H. B. Maddox, Gardiner, WA 5.00
Amy Trept, Arlington, TX 5.00	Richmond African Violet Society, Richmond, VA . . 45.00	Kathryn Thielan, Belleville, IL 5.00
Robert Zubrycki, New York, NY 4.00	Richmond African Violet Society 35.00 <i>(in lieu of speaker's expenses for Linda Abplanalp)</i>	Hisao Tanaka, Musasino City, Tokyo, Japan . . . 9.50
Mrs. Wally Kroeger, Norwalk, WI 2.00	Bahamas African Violet Society, Nassau, Bahamas . 10.00	Mary T. Hammar, Donna, TX 2.00
African Violet Club of Morris County, Morristown, NJ 15.00 <i>(on behalf of Judges Penny Wezel, Laura Shannon, and Jan Murasko)</i>	Karen Palmer, Irmo, SC 2.00	Alice Brown, North Little Rock, AR 10.00
Hudson Highland African Violet Society, Wappingers Falls, NY 10.00 <i>(in lieu of judges expense for Robert Zurzynski)</i>	Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA 5.00	Anita Mc Creary, Pasadena, MD 2.00
Patt Harris, Santa Clara, CA 25.00 <i>(in memory of Mr. L. T. Ozio, Jr.)</i>	Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA 1.00	Jean Mc Ilvanie, Denver, CO 1.00
Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council . . . 20.00 <i>(in memory of Floretta A. Willets)</i>	Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR 4.00	Wichita African Violet Study Club, Wichita, KS . 15.00
	Allen Foust, Orange, NJ 2.00	African Violet Club of Burlington County, Willingboro, NJ 10.00 <i>(in lieu of judges fees for Lee Allen & Bob Kurzinski)</i>
	Patsy Boddy, Rancho Cordova, CA 2.00	Houston Convention Sales Table 563.00
	Florence Silverstein, Norwalk, CT 6.00	TOTAL \$983.50
	Moir J. Hasbrouck, Tarpon Springs, FL 3.00	
	William Ryan, Houston, TX 20.00	

GOODBYE MEALIES, G O O D B Y E !

by Sonja Holm
Sonja's Violets
Omaha, AR

HELP IS ON THE WAY! None of us like to acknowledge that we have bugs of any kind, but we all do have them, one kind or another, sooner or later. The main thing is to get rid of them, but don't throw your plant(s) out. Also, you can put away your alcohol and Q-tips, as far as the mealies are concerned.

Unfortunately, the bugs just show up, unannounced. And the question is always – WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? Well, I think many of the bugs that like our African violets, are commonly found on plants out in the yard. They get carried in on anything we may bring inside. Or they can be carried in on moths, and certainly they can come in through the screens on the windows. We just have to watch constantly and be on guard.

I have observed that the mealies do like the warmer places, such as by the window, if you grow by natural light, or on a higher shelf on a light stand. Rarely will you find any plants on a lower place where it is cooler.

I have also heard that the male mealies fly around at night – I don't know, I never stayed up to find out. But I do know, when the lights come on in the morning, they come out of the plants and drift up to the light. They do fly quite lazily, so you have time to get them. It is best if your hand is wet.

What I have found to be very effective is Ivory dish soap. Fill a 32 oz spray bottle with warm water and add about tsp. of the Ivory soap and spray the plant from the soil up, saturating it on the underside and on top. You will be amazed how the bugs literally disintegrate when the spray hits them. Be sure you use Ivory liquid dish soap.

If any mealies have been able to hide underneath on the stem or leaf long enough so they have built their webbing, or cocoon around them, that will have to be cleaned away. Possibly the babies are hatched out of these cocoons?

I don't know how the bugs arrive at their destination, perhaps that is what the male does at night time. But once they reach their destination, that is where they live out their life. They never move.

In case you think any males may have escaped to the light that you didn't see, you can spray the lights. It won't hurt them, and you will have a good chance to get them there.

So when you keep your plants clean of all the mealies, and eliminate all the males, you will be free of the little pests.

If you receive plants from any place, it is a good idea to spray them as a precautionary measure. I have found the Ivory spray also works on powdery mildew.

MARKETING COMMITTEE NAMED

The Executive Committee has appointed John G. Adney of Marion, IA as AVSA's first marketing consultant. His goal is to expand the public's interest in growing African violets and increase membership in the AVSA. He will work with affiliates as well.

John operates a publishing and marketing/promotion business. He is a member of AVSA, Missouri Valley AV Council, Cedar Valley AV Club, American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society and Gesneriad Hybridizers Association.

John invites AVSA members to make suggestions on how the AVSA can serve its current members and increase membership. His e-mail address is jgadney@email.msn.com

John is chairman of a seven-member Marketing Committee which he appointed. Members are Pat Richards, Olathe, KS; Lynn Lombard, Colfax, CA; Mary E. Hill, Tulsa, OK; Mary Walbrick, Wichita Falls, TX; David Harris, Springfield, MO; and Linda Stickney, Maroa, IL.

Showcase

Streptocarpus *'Blueberry Muffin'*

Exhibited by: Elmer Godeny



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Columnea *'Apollo'*

Exhibited by: Fred Packer



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



(l-r) Petite Blarney, Grown by Bill Johnson
Persian Prince, Grown by John Nabers
Peppy Pink, Grown by Judy Carter

FAVORITE TOOLS AND GADGETS

Mary Ann Switzer
1925 Lone Trail Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Everyone who grows houseplants has probably put together a collection of tools and gadgets which they find helpful. In these three photos I will show you some of my favorites.



On the left is a plastic footstool. I find this helpful when watering and grooming the plants on the top shelves of my plant stands. In the foreground is a black plastic utility tub measuring 25" x 19" x 6 1/2". This is sold at the hardware store and is intended for mixing small batches of mortar or concrete. I find it very useful for stirring up batches of my soil mix. It can be placed on a work table or on the floor. I find it easier to mix in this shallow tub rather than a deep bucket. The strong metal kitchen spoon is great for stirring. To the right is a large plastic scoop which I bought for one dollar at the pet store. It's original use was to scoop dry dog food. I find it great for moving my soil mix to the five gallon buckets shown in the back row. These buckets can be purchased at the hardware store. They are also available at bakeries or fast food restaurants for about one dollar. I like to have two different colors, white and green. This is because I have two different soil recipes, one for rooting leaves and starting baby plants, the other for mature plants. Having different colors lets me know at a glance which bucket to reach for. On top of the buckets

you will notice a black lid which is a wonderful invention: the Bucket Seat by Bucket Boss. It is a plastic air cushioned seat that fits all 5 gallon buckets, available at the hardware store. I find it very comfortable to sit on these buckets while watering and grooming the plants on the middle and bottom shelves of my plant stands.



On the left is a plastic hair color applicator which is great for top watering small plants. It is available at the grocery or drug store. Next is a book about Ikebana. The subject matter isn't important. I like it because it is just the right size, 5 3/4" tall. I wind wicking around it again and again, then cut it top and bottom, resulting in just the length wick I like. Next is a set of three soil scoops from Japan. They are most helpful when repotting different sizes of plants. I bought these at a garden center that has bonsai supplies.

On the left is an X-acto knife. I find it helpful when removing suckers or immature leaves from plants. I also use it when cutting the end of a petiole before putting it down to root. I like the purple handle because everyone in the family knows that all purple tools belong in the violet room and and shouldn't found anywhere else. Next, is a long handled pair of tweezers, useful in removing suckers. Along side the tweezers is a dibber and a widger. Both tools are useful when potting baby plants. They are from England and I bought them at a local hardware

store. Next, is a long handled baby spoon from the grocery store. It is helpful when potting baby plants and when repotting minis and semiminis. Beside the baby spoon are some skewers used for trussing up stuffed poultry. They are from the grocery store. I find them helpful for removing very tiny suckers, or bloomstalks when disbudding. Lastly, you see an old fashioned mousetrap which is loaded with a dab of peanut butter. This is the best way to trap mice if you have had a problem with them in your plant room.



This picture illustrates my favorite way to root leaves of minis, semiminis and *Streptocarpus*. I start with a plastic shoe

box. I add a one inch layer of my rooting mix, which is 1/2 Pro Mix and 1/2 vermiculite moistened with fertilizer water. I usually use Peter's 20-20-20 for rooting. I place the leaves in the rooting medium and label them with plastic plant stakes which are 3" long. I cover the top of the shoebox with Saran plastic wrap. Then, I put a rubberband around the top of the box to hold the plastic wrap securely. I like these 7" x 1/8" rubberbands which are called "Big Bands". I purchase them at the grocery store or office supply store. The day after planting the leaves I check the box to make sure it has some drops of moisture on the sides of the box. If not, I add a little more water and replace the plastic wrap. Then it is back under the lights for two or three months until the babies have appeared and are big enough to transplant.

I hope you like my favorite tools and gadgets. Maybe you will find some of them helpful. Why not invite members of your club to bring their favorite tools for a show and tell program. I have used this program at my club and my council with great success. Invite each member to bring two or three favorite tools or gadgets to a meeting, the more unusual the better. It is fascinating to see what clever ideas your friends have. We can all learn from each other.

Tips on Thrips

by Sharon Holtzman

I'm convinced that the only way of not having to deal with thrips is to have nothing in your house but silk plants. These varmints are so tenacious, that I have no problem pulling out the 'big guns' and using rather toxic sprays but I know there are people who have severe reactions to chemicals or just don't want to use them.

After talking to several other growers and trying these couple of little things myself, I feel that it might be worthwhile passing them along to you. By using these few tips I won't begin to tell you that you will rid your collection of thrips, but I feel it is a 'safe' alternative to help control the numbers.

Thrips hate to take a bath! Keep a spray bottle of distilled water on your plant shelf, sitting it over a ballast if possible, to help warm the water. When you see the critters in your blooms, give them a good squirt. You may have to do this on a daily basis, but if you don't want to disbud your plants, it's one thing that does help.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness" ... and next to "Thripslessness" too. If you are plagued with thrips, take a good close look at your foliage. You will see tiny specks of droppings and/or eggs that were laid on your leaves. Make a practice of washing your foliage once a month. Your plants will breathe better and it will reduce the number of thrips that are allowed to ever come into this world.

I know that thrips spend part of their growth cycle in the



*Flower thrips:
nymph and adult
much enlarged*

growing medium, but I do not know how deeply. Just as an experiment I began raking off a wee bit of the top of my growing medium when I bathed my plants and replaced it with fresh, in hopes of lowering my numbers even more. This being one of my many 'play baby' ideas, I can't tell you if this works at all to get rid of thrips but just by removing this little bit of growing medium you are at least getting rid of the fertilizer salts that may have accumulated and your violets are certainly better for this.

If anyone else has some timely tips on dealing with these critters ... do share with all of us!

Wishing all good growing.

*Reprinted from the Gesneriad News and
'The Violet Connection', the newsletter of the
Ohio State African Violet Society*

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR AFRICAN VIOLET® READERS FROM

FLOWER & GARDEN

THE WORLD'S HOME GARDENING MAGAZINE

Get great-growing, fast-flowering ideas with a subscription to **Flower & Garden**, plus receive a free gift!

Flower & Garden is written in a easy-to-follow, non-technical style that thoroughly explains basic gardening techniques and principles — making it perfect for the novice or experienced gardener. Receive step-by-step instructions for growing everything from apples to zucchini and asters to zinnias plus information on perennials, ground covers, bulbs and more. We provide practical guidance on selecting and caring for a variety of vigorous and colorful houseplants plus ideas for using hanging baskets, planters and fresh-cut flower arrangements

to brighten indoor living areas. You'll also find useful information on harvesting, canning and preserving fresh fruits and vegetables, plus recipes that will use the bounty from your garden to help you prepare tasty and nutritious meals that your whole family will love.

Subscribe now and receive your free Floral Bouquet teapot!

Teapot is handpainted, measures 6-3/4 inches tall and will hold 50 ounces of your favorite brew.



Mail to: **Flower & Garden**
Special Offer
4645 Belleview
Kansas City, MO 64112
Credit card orders call
toll-free 1-800-878-7855

Subscribe Today!



☐ **YES!** Please send me a one-year subscription (6 big, beautiful issues) to *Flower & Garden*, the best and most informative gardening magazine available to gardeners for just \$15.99. That's a savings of 20% off the regular subscription price.

Start my subscription right away:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State and Zip _____ H9AF9

2-for-1 Gift Offer!

☐ **YES!** Please send *Flower & Garden* to my friends listed below — all for just \$19.96, or \$9.98 for each gift. I'll save 50% off each subscription.

From:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State and Zip _____

Gift 1:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State and Zip _____

Gift 2:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State and Zip _____



Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
2 Thu. 12:25 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 5:18 pm
3 Fri. 3:10 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
4 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
5 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
6 Mon. 6:29 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
7 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
8 Wed. 10:57 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
9 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	New 5:03 pm
10 Fri. 5:16 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
11 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
12 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
13 Mon. 2:09 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
14 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Wed. 1:35 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
16 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
17 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 3:06 pm
18 Sat. 2:13 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
19 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
20 Mon. 1:38 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
21 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
22 Wed. 9:51 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
23 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
25 Sat. 2:34 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	Full 5:31 am
26 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
27 Mon. 4:51 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
28 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
29 Wed. 6:21 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
30 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri. 8:32 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 11:03 pm
2 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
3 Sun. 12:14 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
4 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
5 Tue. 5:40 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
6 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
7 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
8 Fri. 12:52 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
9 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	New 6:34 am
10 Sun. 10:01 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
11 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
12 Tue. 9:18 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
13 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
14 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
15 Fri. 10:03 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
16 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
17 Sun. 10:17 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 9:59 am
18 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
19 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
20 Wed. 7:33 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
21 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
22 Fri. 12:42 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
23 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Sun. 2:26 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	Full 4:03 pm
25 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-Fruit	3rd
26 Tue. 2:34 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
27 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
28 Thu. 3:09 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
29 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
30 Sat. 5:47 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
31 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 7:04 am

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

“ And the winners are ... ”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Frost, Coral Kiss, Velvet Frost; Best in Show/Best Standard: Still Waters; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louisa Sando**. Best Semiminiature: Moonsilk, **Jo Ellen Bowden**. Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Cal Iskra**. Best Design, **Nancy Stewart**. Design Sweepstakes, **Margaret Schmierer**.

ALPHA AVS/FIRST AVS OF DALLAS/FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, TX - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Victorian Angel, Candy Swirls, Harbor Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Lou Saunders**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Gleeful Elf, Texas Space Dust, Wishful Teen, **Hortense Pittman**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Arturo Lopez**. Best Standard: Ghost Dance, **William Sugg**. Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf, **Ray Pittman**. Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Terry Range**. Best Design, **Phyllis Reuss**. Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**.

THE AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Stargate, Rita Hilton, Belizaire; Best Standard: Mid America, **Florence Murphy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hanky Panky, Ode to Beauty, Picasso; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita latifolia x linearifolia*, **Laurel Brown**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Ness' Firefly, Definitely Darryl; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; **Sandy Skolski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pride of Columbus, Boo Man, Optimara Little Blackfoot; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Taylor**.

AVS OF DAYTON, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Midnight Sun, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Thelma Lawson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Annabelle, Muffy, Lela Marie, **Pat Hancock**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Scooter, Rob's Macho Devil; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter, **Dorothy Rittenhouse**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Miss Priss; Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopsie; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Heather Herzner**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Juliet', **Doris Palm**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Frank Winstel**.

THE AVS OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cherry Sparkles, Super Duper, Marching Band; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cherry Sparkles; Best Semiminiature: Teen Kiss; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mildred Patrick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Apache, Optimara Little Sioux, Optimara Little Seneca; Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Marcella Wright**. Best Design, **Frances Crissman**.

AVS OF GREATER MONTREAL, QUE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chic, Spring Crocus, Gala Pink; Best in Show/Best Standard: Fredette's Moonflower; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Royal Orchid'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design, **Greta Durand**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Flying Free, Sweet Mama, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Little Katherine, Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Perfect Peach; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Irene Henry**. Design Sweepstakes, **Anne Herbatuk**.

AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK - Winners: Rain Man, Okie Easter Bunny, Mary Craig, **Fern Hildinger**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Morn, Swamp Turtle, Something Special; Best in Show/Best Standard: Something Special, **Mary Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Eyes, Lace Shadows, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Mini Sota; Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou, **Jo Ellen Corley**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink, **Pat Sutton**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley'; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis Enos**. Best Design, **Jeanne Cotton**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Hill**.

AVS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Kiss, Lucky Halo, Blue Puff; Best Standard: Strawberry Wave; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adelle Johnson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dazzle Trail, Rob's Boolaroo, Linda Darnel; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Miniature: Peppy Pink, **Ed Johnson**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Elaine Gordon**.

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Looking Glass, Frosty Spring; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Moon Craze, Sarita, Lemon Cookie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frosty Spring; Best Semiminiature: Lemon Cookie; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Trailer: PV Oceano; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Beck**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia canescens*, **Alice Black**. Best Design, **Frances McMahon**. Design Sweepstakes, **Maria Brooks**.

AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marching Band, Pueblo, Ness' Sizzlin' Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cirelda, Milky Way Trail, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marching Band; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Windy Day, Naughty Lady, **Anne Jantzen**. Best Design, **Ruth Wasserman**. Design Sweepstakes: **Bernice Simin** and **Irene Thomas**.

AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tropic Heat, Victorian Elegance, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, **Karen Dupree**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Pearls 'n' Rubies; Irish Maiden; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Mary Ryan**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Matchpoint, Rob's Doodlebug, Blue Silhouette; Best Semiminiature: Skagit Small Favorite; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Donna Coleman**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Olive Ma Robinson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Design Sweepstakes, **Ethel Champion**.

THE BALTIMORE AVC, MD - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Party Print, Geronimo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Best Trailer: Cherry Blossom Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rodney Barnett**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Skies; Little Katherine, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Sunset', **Marie Burns**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink, **Shirley Huffman**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Susan Barbi**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**.

BAY STATE AVS, MA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Skagit Rusty, King's Treasure, Phobos; Best in Show/Best Standard: Phobos; Best Semiminiature: Slow Dancin'; Best Miniature: Planet Kid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Gimblet**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Major, Ness' Coral Sunset, **Althea Major**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Carol Hess**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Michelle', **Anne Marie Flynn**. Best Design, **Suzanne Ress**. Design Sweepstakes, **Robert Clark**.

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Ode to Beauty, Muffy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Windy Day; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hallucination, **Barbara Church**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lullaby, Fantasy Frost, Nortex's Snowkist Haven; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betty Curry**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Wee Be, Shy Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Cloud Nine', **Florence Diliberti**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lee Borey**.

BLUFF CITY AVC, TN - Winners: This Bud's Mine, Lela Marie, Mary Craig, **Mike Ramsey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alamo Explosion, Shades of Autumn, Natchurly Nawlins, **Carolyn Cooper**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Pat Champagne, Ness' Sno Fun; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sno Fun; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Katherine Steele**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo

Country, **Lorraine Johnson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Design, **Geneva Staggs**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Faded Jade', **Kathy Hildebrand**. Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hello There, Medicine Man, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Calypso Beat, Zaca's Christa Danielle; Best Standard: Frosty Spring; Best Semiminature: Irish Flirt; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Oscar Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Maggie Lee, Ness' Coral Sunset, **Twila De Vriend**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirda; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Jeani Hatfield**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Patsy Boddy**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia canescens*; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**. Best Design, **Mae Mendes**.

CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Moonbeams, Suncoast Paisley Print; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Ness' Mini Sota; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Pony Ride; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best Standard: Ness' Forever Blue; Best Design, **Dale Jascitis**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Golden Dreams', **Annamarie Beardsley**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

CINCINNATI AVS, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Albany Sunset, Picasso, Aca's Red Ember; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Antique Velvet', **Sharon Holtzman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dangerous, Definitely Darryl, Optimara Little Azurite; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tribute to Melvia; Best Semiminature: Definitely Darryl, **Helen Chambers**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Penny Ante, Wichita Baby, Optimara Little Fluorite; Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**. Best Design, **Diana Schwartz**.

CLUB VIOLETES LONGUEUIL, QUE - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Blue Angel, Maggie Lee, New York Glitter; Best Semiminature: Ami Peanut; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Renald Raiche**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Red Ferrari, Apache Secret, **Michel Paradis**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Robert Mayer, **Denis Croteau**. Best Trailer: Scuba Diver; Best Design, **Denise Gagnon**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Filigree', **Rene Martin**.

COPPER CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Corleone, Harbor Blue, Maggie Lee; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Corleone; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Dark Velvet'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robin and Bill Yager**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sheer Peach, Rob's Antique Rose; Best Semiminature: Christening Gown; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Annabelle and Wilson Hart**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grolei*, **Nancy Manning**. Best Design, **Ruth Mirin**. Design Sweepstakes, **Robin Yager**.

DIXIE AVS, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara North Carolina, Fire Mountain, I Feel Pretty; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joanne Baker-Pruner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Irish Flirt, Cookie Man; Best in Show: Sport of Deer Path Trail, **Ramona Hodges**. Best Semiminature: Thunder Surprise, **Alice Grundy**. Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust, **Linda Abplanalp**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Maassen's White', **Kathy Spissman**. Best Design, **Sandra Mims**.

EARLY BIRD VC, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Tiger, Ness' White Bear; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Snake Charmer, Rob's Sarsparilla, Little Pro; Best Semiminature: Little Pro; Best Miniature: Planet Kid, **Sandra Campbell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Petticoats 'n' Blue, East Wind, Call Me Friend; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Irish Flirt, Mac's Halcyon's Horizon; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Peach; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Gypsy', **Ramona Hodges**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Irish Maiden, **Gwen Johnson**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Henderson**.

THE EDMONTON AVS, ALBERTA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Optimara Rembrandt, Fancy That; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kimono; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Larae Pohl**. Best Semiminature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Muran Kosowan**. Best Miniature: Astral Red, **Carol Eros**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia concinna*, **Doreen Smith**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Linda Weiner**. Best Design, **Laurel Goretsky**. Design Sweepstakes, **Twyla Laakso**.

GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, IL - Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Shan; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Luv It'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Schroeder**. Best Miniature: Rob's Tippy Toe; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Goodsell**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Tom Moore**. Best Design, **Thelma Weinstein**.

GULF AVS, FL - Winners: September Morn, Ness' Candy Pink, Wrangler's Jealous Jewels; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Hot Chocolate, Rob's Dust Storm; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'William Waidelich #6'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Anna Marie Rinich**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Summer Coral, Illini Peace, Mixed Magic, **Eleanor Duerr**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Frances Young, **Martha Menard**. Best Semiminature: Pink Pussycat, **Louis Giles**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Ann Ringland**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Eleanore West**.

HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, White Dew; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Little Pro;

Best Trailer: Always Pink, **Allison Bruning**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Nearly Perfect, **Peggy Payne**. Best Standard: Optimara Barbados; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Schuette**. Best Miniature: Lollipop; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Catherine Ross**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Joe Schulz**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #7; Best Semiminature: Age of Innocence; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Ann Burrell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Raspberry Glo, Blushing Ivory, Winter Ice; Best in Show/Best Standard: Winter Ice; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia speciosa*; Best Design, **Barbara Perrott**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Wagga Wagga, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Trailer: Pony Ride, **Stephen Burrell**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kel Seberle**.

JEFFERSON AV ASSOCIATION, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marshlands, Marching Band, Georgia Lover; Best in Show/Best Standard: Georgia Lover, **Gail Borne**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Honeysuckle Rose, Cherokee Trail, Ellie Gardner; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Silver; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Celia Dazet**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Jayhawker, Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Ruff Stuff; Best Semiminature: Little Jayhawker; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Debbie Gainey**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dot Benge**.

LAKE SHORE AVS, IL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ocean Eyes, Pueblo, Lela Marie, **Steve Covolo**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Bertha, Makin' Romance; Best Standard: Makin' Romance, **Carol Allegrette**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Copper Cat, Rob's Macho Devil, Ness' Twinkle Pink; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Rob's Macho Devil, **Andrea Worrell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Linda Darnel, Dazzle Trail, Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail, **Anna Jean Landgren**. Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Best Design, **Patsy Harmes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Morgan Simons**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Michelle', **Gary Mikita**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Harold Appleton**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Goodsell**.

LAKESHORE AVS OF TORONTO, ONT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Skagit Rascal, Red Lion; Best Miniature: Pink Dove, **Tony Hulleman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Semiminature: Rob's Boondoggle; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita subrhomboidia*, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Firefly, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Pink Puff; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Emma Bygott**. Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Moncibello, **Bruno Curcuruto**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Vivian Beeching**.

LATE BLOOMERS AVC OF MONROE, WI - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Optimara Michelangelo, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Iridium Queen, Twist 'n' Shout, Spring Prom; Best Standard: The Alps; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Street**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Chimney Sweep, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Rob's Cherry Soda; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Kitten Face', **Jan Judd**. Best Design: **Carole Zimmerman**; Design Sweepstakes, **Mable Lewis**.

MASTER CITY AVS AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, GA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anna Kreeck, Lela Marie, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Semiminature: Lyon's June Bug, **Sharon Miles**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Ice Maiden, Rob's Hopscotch, Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Velma', **Stephanie Duncan**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Mother's Day, **Joan Cumpton**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Angelika Bondar**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Miles** and **Stephanie Duncan**.

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Optimara Little Ruby, Aca's Pink Pet; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby, **Susan Hapner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Freckles, Definitely Darryl, Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Ardath Miller**. Best in Show/Best Semiminature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Standard: Mindi Morn, **Marion Hamtil**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Nancy Amelung**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite', **Marcia Jacobs**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Evensen**.

MONCTONIAN AVS, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bashful Beauty, Fantasy Maker, Ghost Dance; Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopsie; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Murray**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Antique Rose, Hector, **Sharon Bailey**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Nautical, **Sandy Golding**. Best Semiminature: Rob's Pewter Bells, **Louise Hughes**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria hirsuta*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eva Belliveau**.

MONTGOMERY AVS, AL - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Kiss, Kiwi Dazzler, Happy Cricket; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Pink Skies, Snuggles; Best in Show/Best Standard: Pride of Chicago; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Chamberland**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Rodeo Country, Designer Dress; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Sunshine. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Ferguson**. Best Semiminature: Rob's Sarsparilla, **Bervery Jarman**. Best

Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams', **Peg Phythyon**.

NAUGATONIC AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinklad, Picturesque, Blue Mink; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Show Girl', **Charlotte Fletcher**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Cassie, Picasso, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Ramblin' Prince; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Bashful, Rob's Antique Rose, **Ruth Wheeler**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Angel Glitter, **Julie Prokop**.

NEW YORK CITY AVS, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Miriwinini, Rob's Wooloomooloo; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Optimara Illinois, Rhapsodie Monique, **Gregory Phillips**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Legacy, Rob's Kaleidoscope, Rob's Sandstorm; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita latifolia* x *linearifolia*, **Joseph Palagonia**.

NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Gianna, Bud's Jane, Baritone; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Memory Maker, Ness' Twinkle Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sharon Johnson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Best Miniature: Ness' Tiny Flame; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Sandy Officer**. Best Standard: Nautical; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Werness**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Bambino', **Ruth Bann**.

ORANGE COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Dolly Silvola**. Best Standard: Rhapsodie Rosalie; Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopsie; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Ulysses', **Honey Geck**. Best Trailer: Stickey Spring Trail, **Gini McCanne**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Design Sweepstakes, **Ed Hoefler**. Best Design, **Chris Orcholski**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Diane Miller**.

OSHKOSH VS, WI - Winners: Golden Threads, Golden Plume, Lemon Whip; Best in Show/Best Standard: Golden Threads; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boo Hoo, Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Betty Schreiber**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Betsy Fox**. Best Trailer: Misty Trail, **Geraldine Wilz**.

OTTAWA AVS, ONT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Cindi, Designer Dress, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Irish Flirt, Rob's Calypso Beat, **Bob McCabe**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Persian Lace; Best Miniature: Rob's Red Mist; Best Trailer: Dancin' Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*, **Bruce Young**. Best Standard: Picasso, **Ray Foreman**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia canescens* hybrid, **Angele Biljan**. Best Design, **Lorna Russell**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe** and **Bruce Young**.

PARMATOWN AVC, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Bangle Blue, Rapid Transit, Ultra Violet Moonlight; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Bo Peep; Shy Blue, **Martha Bell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Optimara Van Gogh, Diamond Girl, **Carol Shepard**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Wee Be, Lollipop Kid, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Tracy Lorence**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Chiffon Mist; Best Trailer: Daisy Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia speciosa* 'Giant Eagle'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**. Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Soliloquy; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marian Tisdale**.

RENO SPARKS AVS, NV - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chantilly Lace, Austen's Love, Natchurly Nawlins; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hippy Hop, Rob's Macho Devil, Sum Pumpkin; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Patt's Cameo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Marks**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Purple Slurp, Rob's Dust Storm; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Diana Thrane**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AV COUNCIL, CO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, The Alps, Picasso, **Trudy Brekel**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Precious Pink, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Semiminiature: Lemon Cookie; Best Miniature: Merrilee, **Betty Margetts**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cutie, Everdina, Ness' Angel Blush; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Beverly Promersberger**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: *Alsobia dianthiflora*, **Millissa Culver**. Best Design, **Billie Golla**.

ROYAL SAINTPAULIA AVS, CAN - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marie Knoblock, Fisherman's Paradise, Lela Marie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Purple Slurp, Rob's Dust Storm, Snuggles Snow Baby; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marie Knoblock; Best Semiminiature: Geordie; Best Miniature: Dawn Michelle; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Sherin Boyd**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Lion, Sequins 'n' Ribbons, Silent Prayer; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Susan Brooks**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia cardinalis*, **Willia Degonda**.

THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Cassie, Lela Marie, Mindi's Tears; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Marvel, Muffy; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Hallucination; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Best Miniature: Hula Hoop; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* hybrid, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Claire Schirtzer**.

SAN JAOQUIN AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Mini Sota, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Amethyst'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Vera Parker**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Express, Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Horticulture Little Blackfoot; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst, **Angie Ford**. Best Standard: The Alps, **Gladys Cartwright**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Mary Lloyd**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* Amethyst.

SAN MATEO AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Grandmother's Halo, San Mateo Blues, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Grandmother's Halo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Cathy Cornibe**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Miss Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Mateo Blues; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little James, Cathy's Fireworks, School Bells; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Al Cornibe**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Magic', **Celine Chase**.

SILVERMINE AVS, CT - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooth Sailing, Ness' Candy Pink, Designer Dress; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Rob's Whodunit, Rob's Boondoggle; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Boo Man; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Wallach**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Fisherman's Paradise, Tiger; Best Miniature: Rob's Vanilla Pink, **Jean Simons**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Missy', **Sylvia Siegel**.

SOCIÉTÉ DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTREAL, QUE - Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Gesneriad: *Gloxistema* 'First Frost'; Best Design, **Marie Bellehumeur**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Sweet Dreams, Lemon Cookie; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Annie Simard**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Marie Gagnon**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Spots, **Pierre Laforest**.

SPRINGFIELD AVC, OH - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Back in Time, Evelyn Lord; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Satin'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Carr**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Amazing Grace, **Kenneth Jones**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Florence Borton**. Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Best Trailer: Orchid Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Bartley**.

SUNDOWNERS AVS, LA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Autumn Honey, Victorian Parasol, Apache Victory; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pink Skies, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Matthew'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Lavender Silk, Lela Marie, East Wind; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Antique Rose; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Peggy Lazarraga**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Cherokee, Dean's Arctic Frost; Best Standard: Natchurly Nawlins, **Martha Dyson**. Best Design, **Susie Smith**.

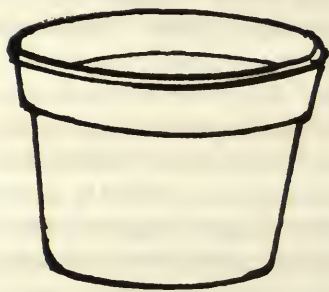
TIDEWATER AVS, VA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Moonflower, Harbor Blue, Picasso; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Standard: Picasso; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Handmade, Von's Simple Simon, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Candy Crystals, **Rose Dudley**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla*, **Norma Griswald**.

UNPREDICTABLE AVS, MO - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Tiger, Lady Baltimore, **Beulah Cupito**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Twinkle Pink, Rob's Fiddle Faddle; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Mini Sota, **Wilma Wolverton**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Sassy Sister, Winnergreen, **June Bartrum**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Maverick's Tight Jeans; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Branwin'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Design, **Linda Golubski**. Design Sweepstakes, **Deanna Loeffler**.

VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA - Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Outrage, Ness' Disco Belle, Soul Music; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Express, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Express; Best Standard: Soul Music, **Carroll Gealy**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ethel Twiford, White Ruffles, Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wong**. Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, **Barbara Nusssear**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Midnight Flame', **Leslie Cox**. Best Design, **Florence Naylor**.

PROPER POTTING PAYS DIVIDENDS

by Anne Tinari
Huntingdon Valley, PA



A flurry of inquiries have recently landed on my desk regarding proper pots for African violets. There appears to be a grave misunderstanding as to type of pot or size to use for growing our favorite plant.

Let the standard rule established in the first Judge's Handbook published by our society be your initial guide. The diameter of the pot should be one-third of the plant spread diameter. For instance, a plant that measures 6" across would be properly planted in a 2" pot. A plant with 9" foliage would require a 3" pot, and a 12" leaf spread is quite comfortable in a 4" pot. Seldom is a pot larger than a 4" needed.

Many individuals are confused as to the best type pot for growing these beauties. One must remember African violets are a semi-tropical plant that thrive best in a plastic pot. Some growers prefer clay pots, however, experience tells us the wanner environment of the plastic pot to be more suitable to provide warmth, proper aeration, cleaner and lighter in weight for employees to handle. Also a lot less expensive. In contrast clay pots are colder, dry out quicker are subject to algae forming on the pot rim and fertilizer salts which adhere to clay substances.

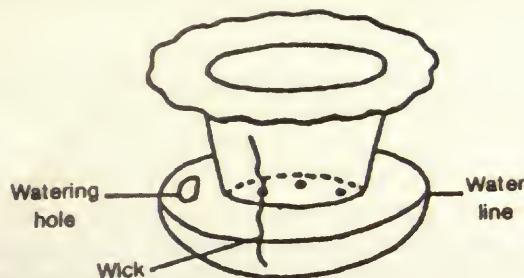
Years ago we changed from clay to plastic pots in our six greenhouses and found them to be a great advantage in growing this warm crop. Regardless of the type pot used one must remember to use proper drainage, unless you are using the self-watering pots with a reservoir. In any case, never use a pot that has been previously used unless it is thoroughly washed. No matter how clean a pot looks it may harbor harmful bacteria and spores or tiny pests that are invisible and can be easily transmitted to your newly potted plant. We prefer squatty pots to the tall geranium type giv-

ing the advantage of proper drainage and avoiding a wet mass to settle in the center of the pot.

The ever-popular 2-piece ceramic pots are very efficient if used properly. Plants thrive and come back into bloom more rapidly. Plants should be potted directly in the insert which is unglazed and porous. Water and fertilizer are absorbed through the insert into the soil. A skim of charcoal is beneficial before placing plants in the insert. Fill lower pot with water about 1 1/2" from top allowing plant to absorb water from the reservoir until water has evaporated to about 1/2" from the bottom, usually 7 to 10 days, depending on the warmth or dryness of the plants environment.

There are also many types of self-watering plastic pots. Some have a reservoir and a wick, others use a different principle for the water to be absorbed to the plant to keep them constantly moist. Directions are usually available with any type pot using a self-watering system and are successful when directions are followed.

Constant repotting is not necessary if the proper pot and soil is used. With the many excellent plant foods on the market that can supply nutrients that leach out of the soil. Proper potting gives one the opportunity to efficiently groom a violet for proper symmetry and prospects to mature into a full blooming plant.



Knowing Your Violets ... Basic Flower Types

When African violets were first discovered in East Africa, there existed only one flower type and color – single blue pansy blossom with five petals. Now, after years of hybridizing, violet blossoms appear in many different types. Knowing the terms that violet hybridizers and growers use, and learning the characteristics of different flower types can help us in selecting violets. We'll look at each of these characteristics.

By the number of flower petals. Flowers having only 5 petals are called "single". "Double" refers to flowers with 10 or more petals (i.e. two or more full sets of five). We call a flower "semidouble" when there are from 6 to 9 petals. Often the number of petals will change because of many different reasons, either genetic or cultural. For example, blossoms will often have more petals in cooler weather, less in warmer weather. That is why we can find descriptions like "single to semidouble" or "semidouble to double".

By the shape of the flowers. The most common flower shape is the species-type or "pansy" type. These flowers are shaped like tiny pansy flowers, with two groups of petals – two smaller upper petals and three larger lower ones. It's very easy to identify an "upside-down" photo of such a blossom, given the difference in petal sizes. "Star" type flowers have equal size petals. The number of points in the star will depend upon whether it is single, semidouble or double – a five or more pointed star. These blossoms will look nearly identical whether seen "right-side up" or "upside down". Other, less common, shapes are "bells" and "wasp". "Bell" shaped flowers have petals which are fused together at their base, creating a bell-type appearance. These can be single or double, pansy or star types. "Wasp" type flowers are rare because of their especially narrow petals, made rarer by the fact that they usually are single (and drop readily) and are small, which makes them commercially unpopular.

By the shape of the petals. Species violets, and most of the very old varieties, all have smooth, flat petals. Modern varieties, besides being larger, also come in many different shapes – curly, wavy, and heavily fringed. These can give the blossoms a more feminine or exotic look.

By the color of the flowers. The most dominant color in violets, which appears in all of the species, is blue and purple. Pinks and whites, reds and corals, then green and yellow have appeared. Of course, color depends upon what the hybridizer and grower sees, when the plant is grown in their particular environment, not to mention small genetic differences from plant to plant. What is "wine" anyway? Is it more of a purple, red, or somewhere in between? Violet growers also define some colors in their own way. For example, hobbyists have accepted a somewhat purplish, fuchsia shade of red as "red", not the "fire-engine red" that others might expect. Another example is the hobbyists' use of the color "yellow". "Yellow" means white

or pink blossoms with yellow streaks or mottling, not "canary yellow".

By the combination of colors. Sometimes violets have more than one color or shades of a color on the petals. A "fantasy" blossom is where one predominant color is dotted or streaked with another. An example is 'New Creation's Blackjack' a medium blue flower with white markings. "Edged" blossoms are those circled with a different color or shade on the edges, and these include 'Mikado Red', 'Sockeye', 'Rob's Sarsaparilla', and 'Ode to Beauty'. "Multi-color" blossoms are those having two or more colors, 'Aggie Trail' being an example. A "two-toned" flower has different shades of a single color, without a distinct margin between the shades. 'Picasso' is an example. This is a definition that is falling out of use, since the difference in shades is often difficult to see or describe, especially when plants are grown under less than ideal conditions. "Pinwheel" blooms are perhaps the most unusual and striking color combination, where colors are shown in alternate stripes on the petals. These are commonly referred to as "chimeras", since varieties of these type often cannot be successfully reproduced by leaf cuttings to get true-blooming plants.

Most hybridizers register their new varieties with the *African Violet Society of America*. The names and descriptions of these registered varieties can be found in the *Master Variety List*, published by AVSA and available both in print and on computer disk. Looking through the *MVL*, you might notice that descriptions of newer varieties tend to be more interesting and complex. Hybridizers are coming up with more colors and combinations of colors, and accurate descriptions are becoming harder to write. When grown by hobbyists, many of these varieties never precisely look as they were described. No two growers have exactly the same growing conditions, so it's not surprising to see plants of the same variety, grown by different people, sometimes looking quite different.

Also, as flower colors and types become more complex and unusual, these varieties become more genetically unstable. Though we, as hobbyists, demand brighter and more unusual colors and combinations of colors, we also complain when our particular plant doesn't appear as described by the seller or hybridizer. This is the price we have to pay for such beautiful new creations. Sometimes the best solution is just to keep some leaves rooting of these "unreliable" varieties, expecting the parent plant to change color due to stress, old age, or our own neglect. Even then, not all of the plantlets may bloom true to description. If we want certainty and simplicity, we can grow the species – simple flowers in one color and shape, but always very safe and predictable.

Reprinted with permission from VioletsFun Photo Journal

AIR AND YOUR PLANTS

by Sue Gardner
Australia

Why do plants need air?

Air is composed of Nitrogen, Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide and other trace gases. Oxygen is used to convert food into energy so that plants can grow and thrive. Remember that roots as well as leaves and stems need oxygen. Carbon dioxide is used by plants in food production. The amount of carbon dioxide in the air varies from 0.03% in outdoor country areas to 1% in poorly ventilated rooms. The more carbon dioxide there is the more the potential for plants to grow. Other factors will affect this however.

What about air temperature?

Air temperature virtually controls the temperature of plants. If plants are kept too hot, growth and flowering will be adversely affected. Water will also be lost from the plant and potting mix unless humidity is kept high enough. If the plant is kept too cold, cell processes will stop and the plant will not thrive. A temperature range of about 15°C - 25°C is best.

What about humidity?

Relative humidity of 40 - 70% is good for African violets. It is measured as the amount of water that exists as vapor in the air. The actual amount of water that will vaporize into the air increases as the temperature increases. This is good, as we do not want cold, wet African violets.

If humidity is too **low**, leaves will not look fresh and healthy. The plant will droop or look dull. Buds will not develop or will even dry out and die. Flowers will not attain the correct size. Many growers report that large flowers only develop to their full size when humidity is correct.

If humidity is too **high**, water will not evaporate from the leaves. This means more water containing fertilizer will not move up the plant and so the plant will starve. The leaves may be undersized and rot may develop. Powdery mildew will thrive when humidity is too high and temperature is low.

To increase humidity, place saucers of water around

plants. If you wick water, humidity should be okay. To counteract high humidity, keep air moving with a fan, which does not blow directly on plants, or increase the temperature if it is too low.

Do African violets need air to circulate?

African violets enjoy good air circulation under certain conditions. Movement of air across leaves causes an increase in transpiration (evaporation of water from leaves). This causes more water-containing nutrients to move into the plant allowing for more growth. Air circulating around plants also inhibits development of some disease, as it does not allow the organisms to "settle down". However some pests are airborne, so it is best not to grow plants next to an open window allowing thrips or aphids to fly inside.

What about drafts?

Drafts are usually cold, so they will harm African violets. Leaves may curl down or develop streaks or spots because their roots become cold. Flowers may also drop. Blasts of hot air from heating systems can also damage plants. The humidity around the plant will fall too low and cause bud blast and dull, dry plants. Hot summer wind has the same effect.

Ventilate your plants safely by opening a window or door adjacent to your plant room. This will allow fresh air to filter into the plant room without creating a heavy draught or causing a dramatic temperature change.

Does gas from stoves or gas heaters harm African violets?

If a small amount of gas escapes into the air it can harm your plants. It will retard growth and affect blooming. It can also cause leaf damage.

Happy growing!

*Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the
Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Australia*

Worth Repeating...

Fantasies - Nature's Gorgeous Goof

by Donald Baker

Fantasy blossoms, those with an unpredictable pattern of flecks or streaks against a different colored background, are among the most loved and most criticized of violet combinations. The fantasies are always among the most popular offerings. But customers complain more frequently about these flowers than about any others. The complaint is always the same — the flower didn't come true or won't propagate true. We are accused of not having taken leaves from a genetically true plant. They don't understand that the same mechanism, which permits the striated blossom in the first place, is responsible for its reversion to a solid color.

African violets are extremely rich in unstable, genetic material. Compared to practically any other flowering plant commonly in cultivation, violets are exceptionally changeable. None of the annuals, petunias, zinnias, marigolds, etc., has the diversity of color, form, and foliage to compete with violets. With roses the comparison is even more striking. A very limited number of roses are introduced each year, and something as novel as a simple bicolor sets off waves of excitement. Remember, too, that violets have a very short hybridizing history, while these other plants have received attention for centuries. Part of the rapid improvement in violets through hybridizing is due to the violet's constant blooming habit and ease of fertilization. But the major factor remains this species' tremendous adaptability. Sexual reproduction is nature's method of dealing with change. Under environmental stress, chromosomes, the hereditary agents, can be changed or modified to yield new genetic combinations, a few of which can be of help to the plant in adapting to new conditions. If the genetic code were always copied exactly, the plant would have no chance to adapt to new stresses. Under stress the violet has reacted by producing the most dazzling array of flowers and foliage of any flowering houseplant.

The secret of fantasy blossoms is bound up in the interplay of dominant and recessive characteristics. The chromosomal makeup of any plant or animal contains some genes which are stronger, more readily expressed, than others. The 30 violet chromosomes determine size of plant, size of blossom, color of blossom, and the thousands of other factors to which we pay scant attention because they are too minute. In any individual, plant or animal, we see only the expression of that individual's dominant genetic traits, although some of these traits may, in fact, be recessive to the species

as a whole. For example, in the Caucasian race brown hair and brown eyes are dominant colors. If a man with brown hair and eyes marries a woman with blond hair and blue eyes, the odds are in favor of brown hair and brown eyes in their children. Let us assume that all their children have these two characteristics, but their grandchildren may have blond hair and blue eyes because each of their children carried a strong, recessive gene for blond hair and blue eyes. Each individual expresses the stronger gene, but the weaker gene may not be very much weaker than the dominant one expressed.

The fantasy bloom in violets occurs because of a genetic mistake. The gene in charge of pigmentation does not thoroughly express the dominant color, letting a more recessive color in the genetic composition of the flower show through. This striation pattern in the blossom also occurs in other flowers, such as delphiniums, tulips and zinnias. Somewhere along the line the chromosomes have failed to reproduce themselves exactly as directed. It's not surprising that the original fantasy bloom was purple against a lavender background, which is just a more recessive shade of purple. Much was made of the variability of the striation pattern from one flower to the next on the same plant. They were called fantasy blossoms because no two were exactly alike. That extreme variability in the flowers, however, is indicative of the instability of the defective pigmentation gene. Sometimes a plant will produce a solid purple flower on the same blossom stalk with fantasy blossoms. The plant carries a strong recessive gene for the solid color. Careful genetic research has determined that each violet plant that arises from a leaf actually comes from a different cell. This can happen because violets are totipotent, which means that any cell can reproduce an individual. Even if all leaves are taken from a fantasy plant, a certain number of the daughter plants will have solid color flowers. So the grower can take leaves conscientiously from fantasy plants and still produce some solid blossom plants. The percentage of these undesirable plants varies from about one-sixth in some varieties to one-third in others. If you take leaves from a solid color blossom sport in an attempt to again derive the fantasy, the odds are very high against success.

From the original fantasy, two shades of purple, it was only a short step to combining a pink background with the purple flecks. It is interesting that if the pink is lightly flecked

with purple, its sport is almost always solid pink, not purple. But if the pink is heavily streaked with purple, its sport is invariably solid purple. We have had these purple and pink combinations with us for years, but development in this field has lagged in recent years. 'Sparkled Star' and 'Little Rascal' did give us a purple background with pink flecks. Perhaps the most interesting introduction in the recent past was 'Sparkle Plenty', which not only had two shades of pink instead of the usual purple and pink motif, but also offered a different flecking pattern, with the darker flecks grouped around the outside of the petal. 'Loco Joe' featured a light lilac background and mauve instead of purple flecks but did not change the basic flecking pattern.

As a result of much work in this area, we were able to introduce, in 1979, several plants, which, while quite attractive, lay the groundwork for further breakthroughs. 'Wing Ding' is a ruffled white star with a broad lilac edge in which flecks of purple are very pronounced. For two reasons this plant is important. One, it is the first fantasy with pure white as the background and, two, it has the fantasy pattern on the edge of the blossom. 'Sparkle Plenty' is not part of this plant's parentage, so the flecking pattern on the margin of the petal must be a recessive feature of the dominant two-toned petal pattern. 'Jumpin' Jack Flash', a maroon semidouble mottled with white and flecked with pink, has the three colors in the blossom like 'Wing Ding' and also brings the white into play. The third spectacular is 'Pepper Pot', a giant white double with a pink center and purple flecks throughout the blossom. This plant also has yellow and green variegated foliage. Again we have three colors, one of which is white. The white

is so important because it provides the very best background against which the striation may be seen, much preferable to a pink background. A white background with dark red, purple, or blue flecks would be sensational.

We have also introduced a third color into the fantasy blossom unintentionally. The star form has become almost the only shape for the fantasy bloom over the past few years. While this shape certainly does show off the streaks in the blossom we made crosses to develop heavily ruffled fantasy types. From the ruffled parent we picked up a very good green edge in two introductions. 'Monkey Business' is a heavily frilled version of the traditional two shades of purple, but it also has a good green edge across the top petals, which will not wash out in hot weather, as do most other green edges. 'Bedeviled' is a heavily ruffled mauve semi-double with magenta flecks and the green edge, though not as heat resistant, across the top petals.

We have also begun the process of putting the appealing fantasy blossoms on variegated foliage to offer more exciting plants. 'Pepper Pot' is on yellow and green variegated foliage. We have three more on Tommie Lou foliage. 'Agglitter' is the 'Sparkle Plenty' pattern of medium pink background with cerise flecks around the edge. 'Fantasia' is a very light pink background with long dark blue, not purple, streaks through it. 'Winter's Folly' is the more common lilac background with purple flecks.

The beautiful fantasy design sprang from a genetic mistake. As hybridizers, we are working diligently in this area making crosses to give nature ample opportunity to delight us further by making another mistake.

Blossom Types

The variety of colors, shapes, and forms of the African violet blossoms has increased over the years. Some of the more important are the following:



Bell: Single blossoms with a bell shape.



Chimera: Blossoms, with stripes that radiate from the center, pinwheel.



Double: Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.



Fantasy: Blossoms are splotched, streaked or rayed with contrasting color or deeper shade of the same color. The blossoms can be of any kind or shape.



Fringed: Blossoms have heavily serrated or fringed outerlobes. The blossoms can be any kind or shape.



Edged: Blossoms can be any shape. Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color. **Geneva** or **Geneva edged:** Lobes of the blossoms are edged with white.



Multicolor: Blossoms with two or more colors.



Semidouble: Blossoms that possess more than the standard five lobes, such as those blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals. Blossoms may appear single but will have multiple anthers.



Single: Blossoms have five lobes, with two upper lobes that are usually smaller than the three lower ones.



Star: Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another. The blossoms can be single, semidouble, or double. The double star has extra layers of petals but maintains the star form.



Two-tone: Blossoms having two or more shades of a color.



Wasp: Blossoms are single and each lobe is very narrow.

So You'd Like to Make a Seed Pod?

by Pat Hancock • West Chester, OH

Thrips know how to make them, and they often do. However, sometimes it is hard to get the cross you are looking for to "take". Doubles are much harder than singles or semidoubles, and it is often better to use the pollen from the double and a single or semidouble for the seed parent. Certain blossoms will not produce seed, no matter what you do.

There are many ways to get the pollen onto the pistil, and I have tried most of them. When I first began trying to make seed, I used my finger to transfer the pollen. None of my efforts succeeded and I was very discouraged. I was advised to use a small brush, a Q-Tip, and so on.

I discovered one day that the best way to transfer pollen was with the flower itself. Now I take a flower off of the plant that I wish to use for the pollen parent. I take a small pair of scissors and cut the tip off the pollen sacs. With my finger, I gently flick them to spread the pollen over the face of the flower. Then, I take it to the plant that I have chosen for the seed parent and touch the pistil gently to the face of the flower with the pollen spread on it.

You only need one or two grains of pollen. Too much will ruin the end of the stigma and your cross will not "take". When I was using my finger, I was jamming the end of the stigma closed. You must be very gentle; no matter which method you use.

If you were successful, in a couple of days you will notice that the flower has died. Soon, a seed pod will begin to develop. You must be patient at this point - you will have to wait from three to five months for the seed pod to "ripen". At the end of the allotted time, it will begin to dry out and become smaller. This is when it is ready to be removed from the plant and be stored in a dry place for about two weeks. Then, if all that went on without a hitch, you are ready to plant your seed.

I use Jiffy Pellets for my planting medium. It must be light, and sterile. Soak 2 or 3 of the cubes in water. When they have expanded, take off the cover and squeeze some of the water out. Place the wet peat in a container with a clear top. I like the salad containers that come from fast food restaurants.

Fold a piece of white paper in half, open it, then hold the seed pod over the paper and open it. The seeds that fall out will look like black pepper. Sprinkle them gently over the prepared peat bed, spreading them out as best you can. Put the lid on and place them about four to six inches from your light fixtures. They should start to come up in about two to three weeks. It's such fun watching the new plants grow from such tiny things!

In Memory

MARGARET VALLIN

Margaret Vallin, 94, of Beaumont, TX, passed away in June, 1999. Margaret came to Beaumont from Dallas in the early 1950's and helped create interest in the African violet in Southeast Texas. Instrumental in organizing the AVS of Beaumont in 1952, Margaret was the last surviving charter member of the club.

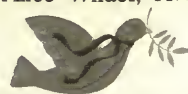
Margaret was nationally recognized for her work with African violets. An avid hybridizer in her own right, she was renowned for her Texas and Val's violet series, some of which are registered. Margaret also worked with other growers and hybridizers in creating new varieties. She sold violets that she had propagated and a number of her plants were on the AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets. Her plants were much in demand in the 1950's and 1960's.

Over the years Margaret was interviewed several times in the African Violet Magazine about her work with violets.

Longtime friend, Winston Smith of Liberty, TX, remembers many happy times working and enjoying violets with Margaret.

In later years, Margaret was unable to care for her plants, and eventually became an inactive member of the AVS of Beaumont,

but in all her 94 years, her love for African violets never dimmed.
(Compiled by Frankie Pletzer and Alice Wilder, AVS of Beaumont.)



JOHN D. MENISH

John D. Menish of Brandon, FL, passed away in March, 1999. John was a past president of Tampa AVS and had also served as first vice president. John was always involved with plant sales, show entries, ways and means, planning and presenting programs and served as an AVSA Judge. John was also former treasurer of the AV Council of Florida, a member of Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, AVSA and Dixie AVS. John will be remembered for his readiness to help, encouraging words and ready smile.

JUDY REINWALD

Judy Reinwald of Glenview, IL, passed away in July, 1999. A member of AVSA and the Illinois AVS, Judy was also a charter member of the Barrington Bloomers AVS and served as President twice. The Barrington Bloomers affiliated with AVSA in 1977, and Judy was part of each show, exhibiting beautiful African violets and winning many blue ribbons.

Thank You For Auction Success

by Pat Richards • Olathe, KS

Thanks to the very generous donors, the winning bidders, and to the auction staff for making the 1999 Houston Saturday Luncheon Auction so successful! This year the final auction amount was \$3320, thanks to a donation from an anonymous donor, who, despite having not won anything in the bidding gave \$25 to AVSA as thanks for the "fun". Next year, in addition to the live Saturday Luncheon Auction, we will have a silent auction as well. This will help shorten the length of the live auction to better fit within convention time constraints.

With great sadness, I must report I will no longer be responsible for the auction. Edna Rourke, a very fine organizer, AVSA Director, and member of the AVSA Booster Fund and Convention Committees, will be taking over beginning with the 2000 Omaha convention.

Now, to the recognition, beginning with the devoted efforts of Dale Martens. Dale helped gather the items in Houston, acknowledged their receipt, and transferred them all to the convention site. Then, she did a lovely job as a "strutter", showing off the items to their best advantage during the auction. To Dale, a most sincere and deserved, thank you! (I owe you, big time!)

And a huge "THANK YOU, YOU'RE THE BEST" to all the helpers at the auction, beginning with the two other "strutters": Mona Donnell and Steve Covolo. To the Secretaries who recorded the bids: Susan Hapner and Amy Trept. To the "spotters" who did such a tremendous job: Lee Shaughnessy, Carol Allegretti, Edna Rourke, Helen Blanton, Terry Klemesrud, Carolyn Burr, Jack Wilson and Ron Miller. To Jenny, Joanne and Tammi of the AVSA office staff who helped run the treasury. To our "helpers where help was

needed": Jim Owens, Sandy Shaughnessy, Charles Wells and Will Dennis. To the ladies who carefully packed items for the trip home: Nancy Moerer and Jeanne Cotten.

Finally, to John Carter, who helped create, keep, maintain, and record the auction records. And, to all the devoted donors who stepped forth with such tremendous enthusiasm and great items for the auction:

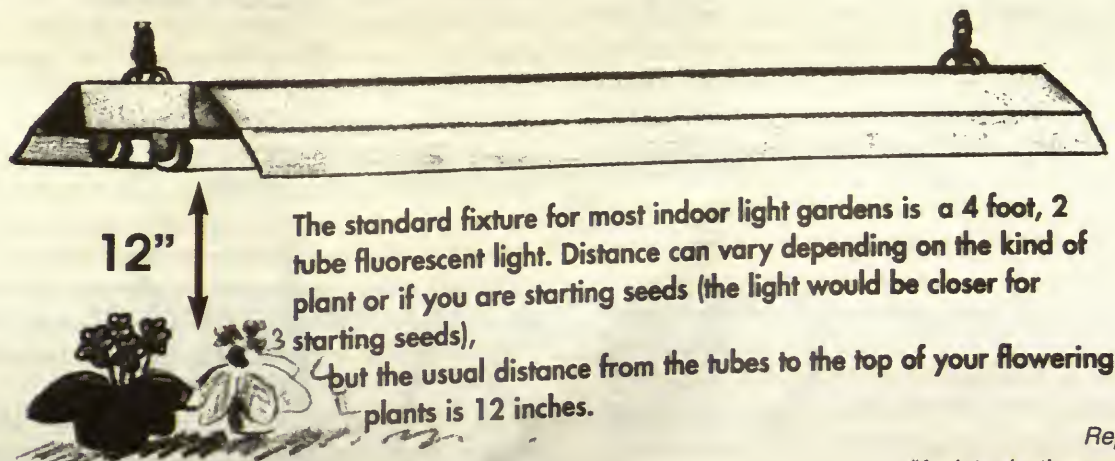
Individual donors: Pat Hancock, Marjorie Bullard, Mary Ann Switzer, Carol Allegrucci, Susan Hapner, Ovella Hall, Sandy Officer, Ruby Cox, Barb Elkin, Ron Miller, Nancy Hayes, Steve Covolo, Sandy Shaughnessy, Helen Blanton, Edna Rourke, Pat Richards, Mary Boland, Itsuko Ishimoto, Lucille Woolever, Jeanne Steiger, Phyllis King, Jack Wilson, Ruth Bann, Connie Lefeiste, Mona Donnell, Mildred Greene.

Commercial donors: Anne Tinari and Tinari Greenhouses, Bill and BeBe Edwards of The Violet House, Mark, Marly and Rosemary Lortz of Kachina African Violets and supplies, H&H Enterprises, Susan Merski of Desert Violets, Shannon and Pam Ahlman of the Violet Showroom, David Harris of Dave's Violets, Alice Droege of African Violets by Frederick's Floral, and Bill and Kathryn Pauwe of Violets By Appointment.

Organizational/Institutional donors: The Missouri Valley African Violet Council, Parkplace African Violet Society, Omaha 2000 Convention Committee, Sacramento Convention, and the Smithsonian Institution Greenhouses.

Very special recognition belongs to AVSA Past President Frances Young who donated her complete set of African Violet Magazines, and to Kazuo Horikoshi, the winning bidder for the set. This particular transaction will make this auction one to remember!

STANDARD LIGHT FIXTURE



Reprinted from
"An Introduction to Gesneriads"

Coming Events



September 11 - CALIFORNIA

AVS of San Francisco Plant Sale
San Francisco County Fair Bldg.
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Gary Beck (415) 771 - 2342

September 14 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Presentation
"Unusual Gesneriads for the Light Garden"
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Hours: 1pm - 3pm
Info: Nancy Stewart (505) 890 - 8420

September 18 & 19 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AV Society Judged Show/Sale
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Sept 18 - 2pm - 5pm
Sept 19 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Lynn Lombard (530) 637 - 9000

September 24 & 25 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Show/Sale
Memphis Botanic Garden
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center
750 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN
Sept 24 - 9am - 6pm
Sept 25 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Carolyn Cooper (901) 872 - 6306

September 24 & 25 - TEXAS

First AVS of Dallas, Alpha AVS
and First Nighter AVS Joint Fall Sale
Plano Market Center, Garden Ridge Mall
Ave. K at Springcreek Pkwy, Plano, TX
Sept 24 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 25 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

September 24 & 25 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC 8th Annual Show/Sale
Crossroads Mall, Waterloo, IA
Sept 24 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 25 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Pershing (319) 987 - 2235
Email: <barbara.pershing@uni.edu>

September 25 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale
Coddington Mall, Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Byron Bork (707) 527 - 8362

September 25 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
17th Annual Show/Sale
West Port Plaza, Indoor Mall
St. Louis, Mo
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Mildred Borsch (314) 878 - 8187

September 25 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS
Fall Get Together Luncheon
Best Western Inn of Burr Ridge
300 S Frontage Rd., Burr Ridge, IL
Design Presentation by Irene Merrell & Jackie Jones
\$14 for the day, send reservation check to:
Barbara Goodsell
429 Cherry Ln
Glenview, IL 60025

September 25 & 26 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Exhibit/Sale
Westroads Mall
102nd & West Dodge
Omaha, NE
Sept 25 - 10am - 9pm
Sept 26 - noon - 5pm
Info: Perry Robinson - 280 - 2882

September 25 - OREGON

Portland AVS Fall Sale
Mall 205 Shopping Center, 9900 SE Washington St
(Inside the mall), Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 7pm
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

October 2 - WASHINGTON

Tacoma Saintpaulia Society Sale
Poole's Nursery and Garden Center
6th at Union, Tacoma, WA
Hours: 10am - 3pm

October 2 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS Display/Sale
Market Mall Shopping Centre
3725 Shaganappi Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Info: Winston Goretzky (403) 241 - 8300
Email: <goretzky@cadvision.com>
Website: <http://www.cadvision.com/wjg/main.html>

October 2 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Plant Sale
Fair Haven United Methodist Church
1330 North Gessner
Houston, TX
Hours: 9am - 4pm

October 2 & 3 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI
Oct 2 - 10am - 4:30pm
Oct 3 - 11am - 2pm
Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

October 8 - 10 - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Council AVS Judged Show/Sale
East Towne Mall, East Washington Ave.
Madison, WI
Oct 8 & 9 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 10 - 11am - 6pm
Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221 - 2050

October 9 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Sale
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Nancy Stewart (505) 890 - 8420

October 9 - ARKANSAS

Bella Vista AVS Show/Sale
Dixieland Mall, Rogers, AR
Hours: 9am - 4pm

October 12 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Presentation
"Decorating For the Holidays"
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Hours: 1pm - 3pm
Info: Nancy Stewart (505) 890 - 8420

October 15 & 16 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVS of Shreveport Sale
Pierre Bossier Mall
2950 Texas, East Bossier, LA
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: Flora Nugent (318) 929 - 7749

October 15 & 16 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Eden Prairie Center
I-494 and Hwy 169
Eden Prairie, MN
Mall Hours
Info: Barbara Werness (612) 754 - 3918

October 15 - 17 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Display/Sale
Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave at I 694
Maplewood, MN
Oct 15 & 16 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 17 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Ness (651) 429 - 4109
(note new area code)

October 16 & 17 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Friendship Park Conservatory
395 Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL
Both Days: 11am - 3pm

October 16 & 17 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Display/Sale
Zilker Garden Center
2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX
Both Days: 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Penny Moore (512) 759 - 1283

October 16 & 17 - CALIFORNIA

Thousand Oaks AVS Judged Show/Sale
Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 Janss Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA
Oct 16 - 11am - 5pm
Oct 17 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Carroll Gealy (818) 991 - 3362

October 24 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS 199 Annual Dinner and Business Meeting
Waltham Field Station, Waltham, MA
Plant Sale 11am, dinner 1pm
Info: Anne Marie Flynn (508) 435 - 7113

October 23 & 24 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Display/Sale
Ft. Myers-Lee County Garden Council Bldg.
2646 Cleveland Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL
Oct 23 - 9am - 6pm
Oct 24 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Blanche Foltz (941) 772 - 1056

October 23 & 24 - MISSOURI

Gateway West Gesneriad Society Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd., St Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Gary Dunlap Email: <patpets@jcn1.com>

October 28 - 30 - NEW YORK

New York AVS Convention/Show/Sale
Holiday inn - Utica Executive Park
1777 Burrstone Rd., New Hartford, NY
Info: Peter Thompson (315) 446 - 0355

October 29 - 31 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Cty. Rd. B and Snelling Ave.
Roseville, MN
Oct 29 - 10am - 9pm
Oct 30 - 10am - 6pm
Oct 31 - noon - 5pm
Info: Kathy Lahli (320) 274 - 1157

October 30 & 31 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Show/Sale
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95, Branford, CT
Oct 30 - 1pm - 5pm
Oct 31 - 10am - 3pm
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

October 30 & 31 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Philadelphia Show/Sale
 Water Tower Recreation Center of Chestnut Hill
 Hartwell & Ardleigh Streets
 Philadelphia, PA
 Oct 30 - 1pm - 5pm
 Oct 31 - 11am - 4pm
 Info: Judith Smith (215) 233 - 2579
 Peggy Dephillipo (610) 489 - 4744

October 30 & 31 - MISSOURI

Missouri Valley AV Council Show/Sale
 Henry VIII Hotel & Conference Center
 4690 North Lindbergh Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO
 Oct 30 - 11am - 5pm
 Oct 31 - 10 am - 2pm
 Info: Helen Blanton (636) 441 - 3072
 Nancy Amelung (314) 961 - 7142

November 4 - 6 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council Annual Convention
 Ramada Inn Bayfront Conference Center
 601 North Water Street
 Corpus Christi, TX

November 4 - 7 - CALIFORNIA

Northern California Council of AV Societies
 DoubleTree Hotel
 1055 Van Ness Ave.
 Fresno, CA
 Info: Renee Wilson (559) 897 - 1662

November 5 & 6 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVC Plant Sale
 St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
 3747 34th St., S
 St. Petersburg, FL
 Nov 5 - 9am - 4pm
 Nov 6 - 9am - 3pm
 Info: Retta Anderson (727) 866 - 8830

November 6 & 7 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Show/Sale
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Haggerty Center
 51 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ
 Nov 6 - 1:30pm - 5pm
 Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
 Info: Stephen Burrell (914) 896 - 8605

November 6 & 7 - MISSOURI

Mid America AVS Show/Sale
 Loose Park Garden Center
 5100 Pennsylvania
 Kansas City, MO
 Nov 6 - 10am - 4pm
 Nov 7 - 10am - 3pm
 Info: Tricia Taylor (816 - 353 - 6571
 Gayle Gill (816) 444 - 5193

November 9 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Presentation
 Albuquerque Garden Center
 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
 Albuquerque, NM
 Hours: 1pm - 3pm
 Info: Nancy Stewart (505) 890 - 8420

November 11 - 13 - VIRGINIA

Mid Atlantic AVS Convention/Show/Sale
 Holiday Inn Central
 Richmond, VA
 Info: Cathy Akers (540) 786 - 9587

BY JOYCE STENGER

HOUSTON, TX

Our violet club meets during the lunch hour!

Once each month we have fellowship, business meeting, raffle, and a program speaker all in 60 minutes. We also eat our lunch during that hour. Here is how our club squeezes in the most for our members in a short time.

Two weeks before a meeting our secretary mails a news memo to members about the meeting, speaker, and program. To save time, the news memo covers items to be voted on at the next meeting. Included in our news memo are telephone numbers of club members. This provides opportunity for members to contact others about the items to be voted upon or plant questions.

Our club meets at a pizza shop centrally located with food freshly cooked and waiting. Salads and drinks are available. The day before the meeting, we have a designated caller who contacts (or leaves a message) to every club member or invited guest reminding each of them about this event. A final call is made to the pizza shop to remind them that we are coming. (Our pizza shop does not charge for using their meeting room because we buy our lunch there.)

Members start to come to the pizza shop, get their food, and begin to eat in the meeting room. An attendance sheet is available so members sign up as they enter. There is fellowship about violets and personal news. Our vice president writes down attendees names on a slip of paper then drops each slip into a cup. Names are added as the last of the members and guests arrive.

12:00 Noon - The president calls the meeting to order. Guests are recognized, treasurer report is read, and correspondence covered briefly.

12:05 PM - Minutes, published in our news memo, are not read. A request however, is made for corrections or additions.

12:10 PM - Old business is reviewed with a vote on any items that need to be resolved.

12:15 PM - New business is covered. If anything is complicated, the president tables the matter so members can evaluate the issue between meetings.

12:20 PM - Announcements are made including the addition of new members, field trips, local shows, or awards earned by members.

12:25 PM - Raffle is held and door prize violets are given to winners in case they have to leave.

12:29 PM - Meeting is adjourned and speaker announced.

12:30 PM - The speaker begins a previously determined program.

12:50 PM - Speaker opens the discussion for questions.

12:51 PM - Members who need to can now can leave.

12:58 PM - Speaker completes the program.

12:59 PM - Reservation for pizza shop is made for next month.

1:00 PM - Members leave full of news, violets, and fellowship.

Our violet club has all adult working-professionals that are conditioned to meetings and schedules. They have their own transportation with varied lunch hours. They work for multiple companies within ten miles of our meeting place. Most members grow part of their collection at their office or place of business. We never use e-mail for communication, as our employers do not allow it. We do have free access to telephone calling and faxes.

Meetings do not have to be long or complex. If your club has a time constraint, why not try a 60-minute meeting?

WHERE THEY ONCE GREW

Many growers of African violets, when asked where the species originated will reply that most were discovered in the mountains of Tanzania, with a few coming from neighboring Kenya. While this is certainly true, the habitats in which the individual species were growing were often quite different – in altitude, temperature and soil conditions.

The first two species of “das violette Usambara”, as they were first named when discovered by Baron Walter Von St Paul, were discovered in two different locations: the first at about 150 to 500 feet (45 to 150 metres) above sea level in wooded places, in the fissures of limestone rocks, growing in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. The second site was in the shady primeval forest area of Numbara, with no granite rock, at about 2500 feet (700 metres) above sea level. Although they were not at first recognized as being two different species, the first was *Saintpaulia ionantha*, one of two species from which all modern day hybrids are thought to have come. It is probably from *S. ionantha* that modern hybrids have inherited the ability to withstand higher temperatures, since the average day temperature of its original habitat was 80 degrees F. (approximate) 26 degrees C.

As more species were discovered, the range of altitudes in which the *Saintpaulia* was known to grow became wider. One species, *S. goetzeana*, grew in mosses at 4,000 to 6,000 feet (1200 to 1500 metres) in primeval forest. This species is very difficult to grow, particularly under home conditions. It flowers very rarely, and requires warm day conditions but very cool night conditions, which would not be suitable for most modern cultivars. Another species, *S. orbicularis*, was found growing in the shade with daytime temperatures reaching 90 degrees F. (32 degrees C.) and 45 degrees F. (10 degrees C.) at night, at an altitude of 1200 metres.

The variety of soil conditions in which species *Saintpaulia* grow is very wide. For example, *S. grotei* was found growing in dense shade near running water, but needed perfect drainage. *S. pusilla* was found on large mossy boulders in primeval forest. *S. confusa* grew on gneiss rock but needs more water during cultivation. *S. shumensis*, on

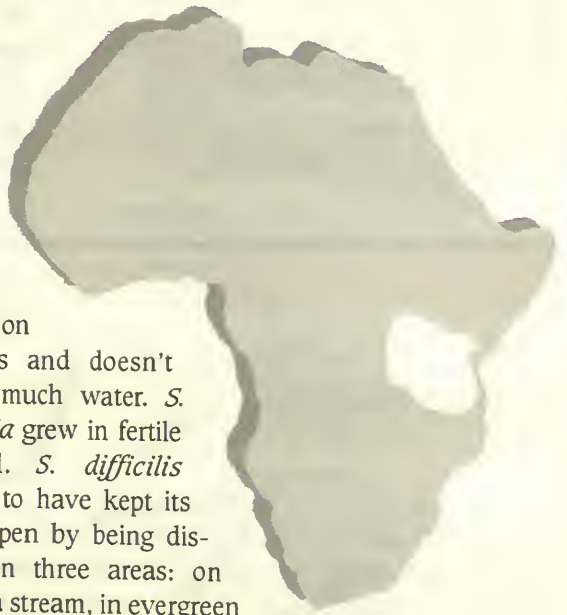
the other hand, grew in dry forest on cliff faces and doesn't need so much water. *S. grandifolia* grew in fertile clay soil. *S. difficilis* appeared to have kept its options open by being discovered in three areas: on rocks by a stream, in evergreen dry forest and on damp rocks in an evergreen rain forest.

Saintpaulia inconspicua, which was believed to have been lost during World War II, was found only occasionally in moist forest soil. Another species, *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis*, is now believed to be extinct in Africa. The area in which it was discovered became farmland on which sisal was grown.

While this article covers only a small proportion of the *Saintpaulia* species, it shows that the range of habitats under which they grew was very broad. It follows that, in order to grow species *Saintpaulia* successfully, the ideal culture conditions under which they are grown should mirror as closely as possible the natural habitats under which they were discovered, particularly in the areas of temperature and type of soil used (since some species require more or less water than others). Light should also be considered, as light conditions ranged from heavy to very light shade.

While it would be extremely difficult for any one person to grow all available species under home conditions, it would be great if all *Saintpaulia* growers tried to grow at least one species – it would be a catastrophe if any more were lost.

Reprinted from *African Violet News*, Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc., Australia



CHIMERAS

Before I even start, I must tell you that a Chimera is my favorite African violet next to miniatures. They are fascinating plants and a real challenge to propagate. Their price range is also higher than the average African violet, because of the difficulty to propagate a true Chimera.

The name Chimera originated from Greek mythology and it means a fire-breathing animal with the head of a lion, a goat's body and the tail of a snake. It is thought that the Chimera is two cultivars mixed in one.

They are one of those African violets that will not propagate true from a leaf. If you have a Chimera that is blue and white and you try propagating from a leaf, you will end up with either plain blue flowers or maybe plain white flowers.

PROPAGATION

Flower Stalk

Select only flower stalks that have true flowers on them. The larger the leaf bracts, the greater chance of success. Remove all the flowers and buds from the stalk. You will be left with the leaf bracts. Cut the stalk about 2cm below the leaf bracts and pot this up in your violet mix. Roots will develop at the end of the stalk and plantlets from the leaf bracts. If you plant the stalk so that the bracts are just above the mix, any roots that the plantlet develops will find its way to the mix. Wait until you have five to six leaves on the plantlets before removing them from the stalk. This is a very slow way of propagating, because it takes some time for the plantlets to form. Cover the plant for humidity with plastic or a plastic cold drink bottle.

Suckers

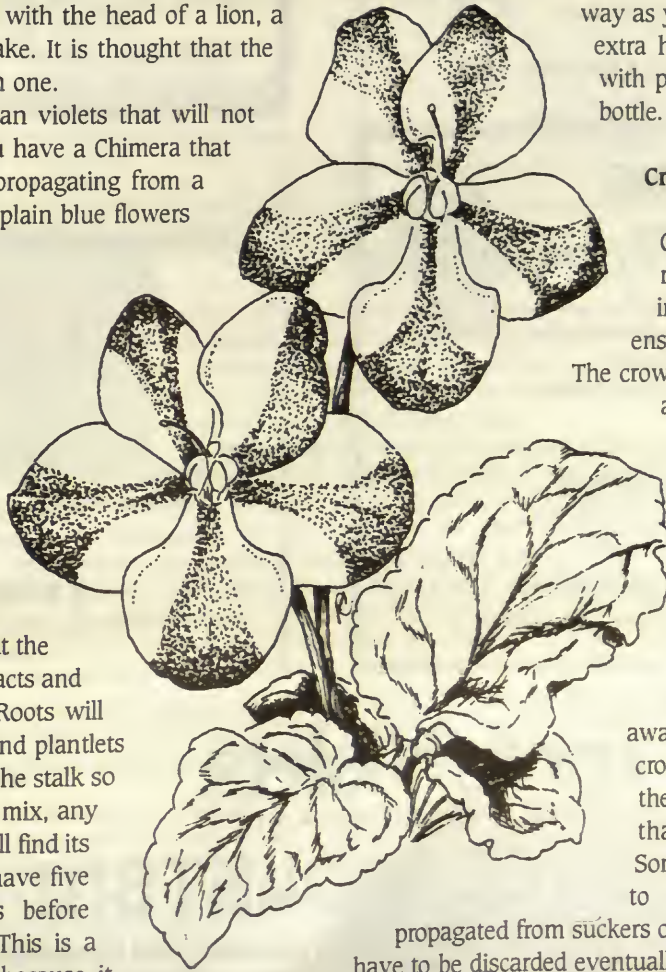
Occasionally the Chimera will develop a sucker. Leave them on the mother plant until they are well developed before removing them. (Again, wait until they have about six leaves). Remove the sucker with a sharp knife or blade. You can now root it the same way as your leaves. Cover the plant for extra humidity, either by covering it with plastic or in a plastic cold drink bottle.

Crown Removal

You can also force the Chimera to form suckers by removing the crown and leaving a few leaves on the plant to ensure the survival of the plant.

The crown can be planted like a sucker as described in the method for suckers. This method will force the plant to form suckers (side shoots) as it has no growing center and it will put all its energy into the side shoots. Wait until the sucker is big enough to remove and then pot as described above. Scrape away scar tissue, if any, in the crown and you might find that the plant would give you more than one crop of suckers. Sometimes the Chimera will fail to reproduce true even when

propagated from suckers or stalks. The mother plant will have to be discarded eventually.



*Reprinted from the newsletter of the
Usambara Violet Association of South Africa*



Specializing in large, variegated standards and exciting new varieties from "Hobby Hybridizers."

Order now for late fall or early spring delivery

Buckeye Especially Mine - Long lasting large ruffled mauve-pink pansies splashed with raspberry and purple fantasy and a ruffled raspberry edge on dark green, pink and cream variegated foliage that forms a perfect rosette. Large

Buckeye Diamond Dust - Large ruffled snow white stars with centers dusted pink are long-lasting on med. green and cream variegated serrated foliage that lays flat and very symmetrical. Large

* white oyama pots: 4" - \$2.00 ea., 5" - \$3.00 ea. plus postage

** "Master Blend" fertilizer (15, 16, 17). Great for African violets as it contains trace elements and NO UREA. \$3.50 with leaf order \$4.00 plus postage when ordered alone

*** Shipping fresh cut leaves only ***

16 page list - \$1.50 in cash, stamps, or check payable to:

Pat Hancock

P O Box 8085 • West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 777-2524

Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES, INC.

PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Our 1999 Supplement to the 1998 Catalog is now available. Please call or write for your free copy! Phone number (315) 429-8291

- OR -

Visit our website at:
www.lyndononlyon.com

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality Hybrids
Since 1954

1-800-770-AVSA

MIGHTY MINIS

Jeannie Stokes

Over 600 varieties of
Minis, Trailers and various gesneriads.
Refundable with 1st order.
List available January 1999, \$2.00.



7318 Sahara Court
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 421-7284

Tuesday through Saturday
California State License #ID 2889.001



AFRICAN VIOLET LEAF SUPPORTS

5 Sizes

6" fits up to 3" pot
9" & 12" fit up to 5" pot
15" & 18" fit up to 8" pot

made of leaf-green plastic, fits any type of pot
send stamped, addressed, long envelope
for price list and current shipping charges

J F INDUSTRIES

CHR-65 Box 309-1 Pryor, OK 74361-9644
1-918-434-6768



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1999 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$38 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets

Phone 1-912-574-5167

1-912-574-5236

Fax Orders only - 912-574-5605

e-mail: tviolets@aol.com



AD EXPIRES 11/30/99

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.
Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.
Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

VIOLET VENTURE

Fay Wagman • 52 Harper Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534
Leaves only - List \$1.00

A new independent
AV and Gesneriad publication!

African-violet and
Gesneriad NEWS

IN CANADA \$15/yr (4 issues) (All other countries \$15. US)
Send for a sample copy - only \$2.

Payment must be made out to **John Beaulieu Productions**
37 Shaw Crescent, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Z3 (705) 726-7363



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

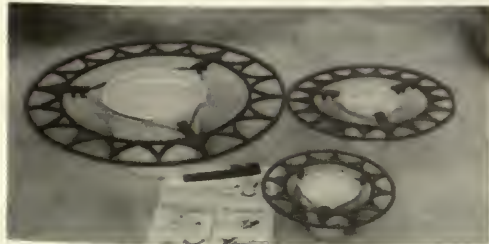
the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388



LEAF SUPPORT RINGS

Give your violets a spruced up look. Keep the leaves from touching and being damaged by rough pot edges. Excellent for training show plants to perfect symmetry. Made of green plastic. Each comes with a rubber band which is what holds the ring onto the pot. Slides on from the bottom of the pot. Instructions included. Three sizes:

6" Ring - great for minis and young standards. Fits up to 3" pots.
\$1.19 each; or \$12.99 per dozen, or \$24.49 per 25.

9" Ring - fits 3" to 5" pots. \$1.29 each, or \$13.39 per dozen; or \$24.29 per 25.

13" Ring - fits 5" to 8" pots. \$1.49 each; or \$16.19 per dozen; or \$29.19 per 25.

Extra rubber bands (specify which ring size) \$.75 per dozen.

SHIPPING/HANDLING COSTS: Orders for less than \$10; add \$5.50; Orders for more than \$10 add \$6.50. WE SHIP via UPS most often. (Orders shipped outside the U.S. will be mailed at actual cost.)

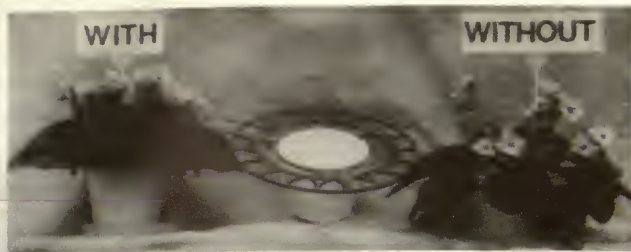
A free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list will be enclosed with each order. Colorado addresses please add 3% tax. We also have a complete line of growing supplies, lighted plant stands, soils, fertilizers, assorted pots, wicking trays, insecticides, books, seed and more AND leaves or starter plants of over 120 different violets - including minis, standards and gesneriads. Lots of new varieties for this year plus many classics. In business since 1969. Closed Sundays and Tuesdays.

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

Checks, MASTERCARD, VISA and DISCOVER accepted.
Phone (303) 761-1770 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mountain Time Mondays and Wednesdays thru Saturdays. (Mountain Time is 2 hours earlier than Eastern Time and 1 hour later than Pacific Time) Fax (303) 762-1808. FAX machine any time.
Catalogs free to US addresses. Others send \$2.00 US\$

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE

3147 South Broadway
Englewood, Colorado 80110





BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

PHYSAN 20™ Controls African Violet Pathogens.

- Controls algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls disease spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20.**



MARIL PRODUCTS, INC.
320 West 6th Street
Tustin, CA. 92780
P. 714.544.7711
800.546.7711
F. 714.544.4830
www.physan.com



BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00
4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

prairieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES

2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

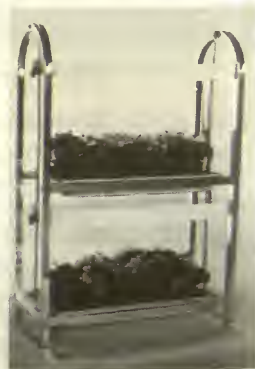
- ♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
- ♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID,
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED
FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L X12D





Alannah's Greenhouses

"mail order specialists"

**African Violets, Gesneriads, Geraniums
& Tropical Flowering Plants**

*well established starter plants
fresh-cut leaves
growing supplies*

We take pride in our expert wrapping and packaging
*Shipping throughout Canada,
United States and Internationally*

View the catalog on-line at
www.alannahs.com

To receive a copy of the '99 catalog, please send \$2.00

Box 1342
Grand Forks, BC
VOH1H0 Canada

Box 2
Danville, WA
99121 US



ShoMe Violets

Plants - \$1.50 ea. ppd.
Leaves - \$.75 ea. ppd.
No List - \$10 Minimum

Tomazine Carlton - Owner
210 No. Maple St.

Phone: 660-542-2714
Carrollton, MO 64633

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

Fun for the hobbyist ~ Great club project!
Packets contain 3-5 different crosses ~ With instructions
Postpaid \$5.00 ~ Cash, Check or Money Order
Sharon Holtzman (MsViolet1@aol.com)
6971 Olentangy Ln. ~ Newtown, OH 45244-3146



500 Varieties -

NO LIST - SORRY,

NO FURTHER SHIPPING!!

Our "slow-down" has gone much
faster than anticipated!!

Bill & Kathryn Paaue

45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER BEFORE THE WINTER CUTOFF FOR SHIPPING!



A SAMPLING OF OUR VARIETIES

STANDARDS

Williams - Suncoast Royal Punch, Pirouette, Offshore Seabreeze, Lavender Silk.

Ness - Blueberry Kiss, Viking Maiden, Candy Pink, Orange Pekoe.

Sorano - Kissing Bandit, Music Box Dancer, Sergeant Pepper, Velvet Valentine.

Stork - Goodmorning Pink, Whirligig Star, Smooch Me, Saddle Shoes, Moonless Night.

Hancock - Buckeye Ballerina, Butterflies, Cherry Freckles, Cranberry Sparkler, Cranberry Swirl.

MINIATURES/SEMINIATURES

Robinson - Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Outer Orbit, Rinky Dink, Bamboozle, Boogie Woogie.

Sorano - Smitten Kitten, Snow Leopard, Golden Eye, Fireworks, Little Snow Bunny.

Leifeste - Little Houston, **Gregg** - Dean's Peach Sherbet, **Pittman** - Donelle.

Space does not allow for us to give descriptions of all the lovely plants we have available.

You may order our 1999 catalog for \$1.00 which contains their description.

LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE - Current and previous releases - 24 for \$20.00 or 50 for \$38.00.

Current releases - 24 for \$24.00. **Shipping** on leaves \$6.00 for up to 50. Over 50 add 10 cents per leaf.

Shipping on plants \$7.00 for up to 6, and 40 cents for each additional plant. We will ship until November 1st.

Make checks payable to

Shirley Sanders

1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX 78221

Telephone number 210-923-1093

NEW LOWER PRICES!

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC 3.00 5.00 12.00 20.00 80.00

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special				1 gal.	\$2.00	
				2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)				1 gal.	\$2.00	
				2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)				1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)				1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled				2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix				2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)				2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)				5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE				1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75	4 oz./\$7.75
PETERS FERTILIZER						
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)				8 oz.	\$3.00	
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)				8 oz.	\$3.00	
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)				8 oz.	\$3.00	
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)				8 oz.	\$3.00	
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)				8 oz.	\$2.00	
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)				8 oz.	\$2.00	
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER						
Dyna Gro -7-9-5				11 oz.	\$6.25	
				16 oz.	\$8.50	
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster				11 oz.	\$6.25	
				16 oz.	\$9.75	

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00



MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 1274 Gainesville, FL 32602
(352) 377-8465 • (800) 377-8466



- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

**A & W VIOLETS
OUR SECOND YEAR**

Best organized New varieties
Lots more starter plants!
Catalog \$2
8704 E. 92nd Pl. K.C. MO. 64138
(816) 765-5589



**Acree
Creations**

**Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes**

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

AFRICAN VIOLET BEAUTIES

From The Beautiful Ozarks!

Old favorites and new beauties. List \$1.00.

Walkins welcome. U.S. Ship only. Priority Shipping Only.

SONJA'S VIOLETS
(870) 426-1791

15980 W. Warden Rd.
Omaha, Arkansas 72662

New Ceramic Reservoir Pots 5 pack: \$34.95

Collection In plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



**Super
Miniatures**

Receive a collection of 5 Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



**Teas Catalog
FREE to AVSA**

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY FREDERICKS, INC.

Alyce Droege Charlene Lentz

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!

STANDARDS in 3" & 4" pots, plus leaves

MINIS CHIRITAS
TRAILERS CHIMERAS
EPISCAS STREPTOCARPUS
and other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"

fertilizers - spray - "my own mix" soil

Dandy pots - 2 sizes - many colors

growing pots - Oyamas - hanging baskets

beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)

6 sizes - decorator colors

Home of Aly's hybrids

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

P. O. Box 1416

Franklin, NC 28744

Monday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

1-828-349-4832

www.african-violets.com

Florida Registration number: 47219602

**HATTIE BAGGETT'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

*Specializing In Large Flowering Standards, Lots of Oldies
Plus New Varieties, Shipping Fresh Cut Leaves Only,
State Inspected and Certified - Shipping United States Only*

1999 List \$1.50 - Payable to
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1999
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714

Evergreen Violets

LEAVES ONLY

LIST \$1.00 PLUS 2 - \$.33 STAMPS
MAIL ORDER ONLY

2304 169TH AVE N.E.
HAM LAKE, MN 55304



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants

Catalog - \$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
(520) 326-3057
email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712
by appointment only



CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, wicks not included)	8 oz	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
	16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price	32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	1	6	12	25	50
9"	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
		1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each

White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black

\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and
Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula Type Size / Price

7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt.	1 pt.
3-12-6	Bloom	\$4.29	\$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$4.29	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29	
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$4.29	
		\$10.00	
Dolomite Limestone			2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.75	3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		1.75	5.00
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide		\$1.75	\$5.00
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths			

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25

32 oz. - \$10.50

1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79

1 oz. - \$4.19

2 oz. - \$5.25

4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid

Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols

Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

You know African Violets -
now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, round robins, annual
convention, plus a copy of
"How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$20.00

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00

Please send check, money order, or
credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194 USA

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world
of orchids each month when you
become a member of the American
Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the
American Orchid Society Bulletin to pages filled with
priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied
by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special
advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants,
supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and
whatever else is needed to become a successful grower.
Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your
fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color
membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

VioletsFun Photo Journal

Each issue contains 4 **full-color** pages,
interesting articles and cultural information
6 issues per year, \$10 (\$12 outside of US).

VioletsFun, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512
Phone: 716-374-8592 VioletsFun@aol.com

Control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew

Phyton[®]
27
BACTERICIDE & FUNGICIDE

Effective • Invisible • Systemic



For tech information, contact:
Source Technology Biologicals, Inc.
1-800-356-8733



*The Association for plant &
flower people who grow in
hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:

*Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022*



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.
Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.
Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net N-N-check us out on the web
Phone: 334-899-7142 N-N-N-www.graceba.net/~royh



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS



33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS, TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface
D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92705

SAVE \$2.05 PER BOOK!

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.



Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

Winner, Best Commercial Display
at 1999 AVSA Convention Show

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....plus dozens of other favorites, including Rob's Hallucination, Best New Cultivar at 1999 AVSA Convention Show.

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful! Large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cute!; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow!; sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....plus dozens of other favorites

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & Greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.

*Accept the seasons for the joys we can glean,
Each one weaves a miracle, each one plays a theme.
Brilliant bold colors of yellow, red and gold,
Mother Nature paints a picture for the world to behold.*

FALL SPECIAL ...

LARGE FULLY GROWN AFRICAN VIOLETS IN MANY STANDARD AND OPTIMARA VARIETIES. ALL IN 3" OR 4" POTS. ASSORTED OUR CHOICE (one of a kind sent).

5 for \$21.95 postpaid

10 for \$26.95 postpaid

ADD INTEREST TO YOUR COLLECTION ... \$3.95 each

Fantasy Freckles, Halo's Aglitter and Luminescence.

IRRESISTIBLE BEAUTIES ... \$2.95 each

Aurora Fantasy, Blue Parade, Fire Mountain, Louise, Red Robe, White Cameo.

A RAINBOW OF COLORS ... \$2.49 each

Anniversary Tribute, Azure Blue, Bangle Blue, Brandywine, Ingrid, Morning Thunder, Pink Heaven, Pink Hill, Rose Lisere, Wonderland.

VARIEGATED VARIETIES ... \$2.95 each

Nancy Reagan, Romance, Tradition.

MINIATURE/SEMIMINIATURE

Blue Ice, Little Pro, Taffy ... **\$2.49 each**

Little White Beauty, Mini Favorite, Pretty Baby ... **\$2.95 each**

SEMINIATURE TRAILERS ... LIL' ROUND AROUND ... \$2.95 each

Pixie Blue, Rosina ... **\$2.49 each**

OPTIMARA INDIAN SUMMER SERIES (miniature) ... \$2.95

Little Apache Girl, Little Blackfoot Girl, Little Cherokee Girl, Little Comanche Girl, Little Crow Girl, Little Hopi Girl, Little Inca Girl, Little Shoshone Girl, Little Sioux Girl.

SPECIAL OFFER ... We have available **MINI-DANDY POTS** suitable for the Indian Summer Series violets only in pink or blue ... **\$3.25 each**

TO KEEP YOUR PLANTS IN GOOD GROWING CONDITION MAY WE SUGGEST:

TINARI'S AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM

Properly blended growing medium; the same as used in our greenhouse operation, ph of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart poly bag zone 0-1-2 **\$12.95 ppd.**

12 Quart poly bag zone 3-4-5 **\$13.95 ppd.**

12 Quart poly bag zone 6-7-8-9 **\$14.95 ppd.**

(First number of your zip code indicates zone you should use.)

OPTIMARA AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD - An excellent formulation of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash 14-12-14. Each box contains 15 pre-measured packets. Simply mix one pre-measured packet in one gallon of water ... **\$2.49** per box with any order.

SEND FOR 1999 COLOR CATALOG ... \$1.00

PACKING AND POSTAL COSTS:

First number in your zip code indicates zone you should use.

Zone 0-1-2 **\$6.95 per shipment**

Zone 3-4-5 **\$7.95 per shipment**

Zone 6-7-8-9 **\$8.95 per shipment**

CA and all customers West of MS are served best via USPS PRIORITY. Please include an additional 60¢ per plant over postage stated for this service.



DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947



African Violet

QK1
.A3149

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 1999

Volume 52

Number 6



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$22.00; Council, State or Region - \$22.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 10 Scott Dr. N, Broomfield, CO 80020-1138.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Omaha, NE - May 21-28, 2000, Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 1,000 to 4,000 \$27.50 per 1,000; 5,000 to 9,000 - \$25.00 per 1,000; 10,000 and over \$23.50 per 1,000.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Carolyn Burr, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, MO 63021-7004. Email carolnburr@aol.com.

MAGAZINE: Copyrighted 1999, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without editor's permission.

AVM EDITOR: Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 19506 Mills Meadow Lane, Houston, TX 77094. AVMads@avsa.org

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook
\$10.25 (postpaid)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, at 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription \$20.00 per year which is included in membership dues. • Copyright 1999 The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

Volume 52

MISSOURI BOTANICAL Number 6

CONTENTS

NOV 04 1999

FEATURES

GARDEN LIBRARY

African Violet Pests - Keith Lind	11
"How Do I Get My Plants to Bloom?" - Ruth Greico	17
Well-Traveled Violets - John G. Adney	18
What Do Those Numbers on the Fertilizer Label Mean? - Dave Neal	19
Saintpaulia Species Growing Habits	20
Temperature - John Beaulieu	22
Humidity - John Beaulieu	22
The "Facts of Light" for African Violets - Carla Ryan	24
Leaves Are the Barometer of Your Plant's Condition - Joan Halford	26
Acquaintance With African Violet Terminology - Anne Tinari	30
Propagating Streptocarpus Leaves - John Beaulieu	31
The Day That Canada Fell - Pat Richards	34
A Quick and Easy Plant Stand - Mary Ann Switzer	35
Trailers - My Favorite African Violets - Nancy Manozzi	38
Big Enough! - Byron Borck	39

Disbudding - Kim Thorogood	39
Folio Art Glass From AVSA	40
Folio Art Glass Order Form	41
The Effects of Light on the Growth of African Violets - A Science Project by Laura Ulrich	42
The "Impeachment of Jack Know It All" - Ralph Breden	45
Violets Found in Africa - Barbara Elkin	45
Creating African Violet Hybrids - John Brownlie	46
Grooming Gesneriads - Monte Watler	48
Violets In Winter - Ina Beaver	49
Leaf Propagation - Ron Smith	50
1999 Best Varieties - Floyd Lawson	51
Terraced Terrariums - Barbara Goodsell	52
Guidelines For Judging - Bob Green	53
After the Show - Marilee Bean	54
Culture Shock: Does It Really Show? - Lisa DiMambro	54
My African Violet Safari - Bruno "B-Man" Curcuruto	56

DEPARTMENTS

Index of Advertisers	2
Officers & Staff	2
President's Message - Bill Foster	3
Editor's Notes - Ruth Rumsey	4
Office Update - Jenny Daugereau	5
For Beginners - Kent & Joyce Stork	6
AVSA Building & Maintenance Fund - Helen Blanton	8
Gesneri-Advice - Dale Martens	9
Registration Report - Iris Keating	10
Question Box - Dorothy Kosowsky	12
Thinking Small - Pat Richards	14
In Search of New Violets - Dr. Jeff Smith	16
Affiliate Update - Bev Promersberger	19
"And the Winners Are ..." - Mary Corondan	21
Planting by Moon Signs	23

Showcase (1)	28
Showcase (2)	32
Showcase (3)	36
Boyce Edens Research Fund - Marlene Buck	43
AVSA Booster Fund - Bill Lyons	43
Vintage Violets - Barbara Elkin	44
AVSA's Most Wanted - Barbara Elkin	44
Statement of Ownership	52
Coming Events	55

CONVENTION

Last Chance in the Twentieth Century - Linda Golubski	55
Convention Dates Have Changed	55

COVER

Rob's Lilli Pilli
Exhibited by:
Bev Promersberger
Hybridized by:
R. Robinson
Semiminiature Trailer



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A

Acree Creations 61
A & W Violets 61
African Violet and
Gesneriad News 58
African Violets by Fredricks, Inc. 61
AGGS 63
American Orchid Society 63
AV Enterprises Press 64
AVS of Canada 58

B

Bayou Violets 58
Belisle's Violet House 59
Blue & Gold Embroidery 58

C

Cape Cod Violetry 62
Country Violets Greenhouse . . . 64
Cryptanthus Society 58

D

Desert Violets 61
Dyna Gro 64

H

Hattie Baggett's
African Violets 63
Herbal Garden Ceramics 64
Hobby Greenhouse 63

I

Indoor Gardening Supplies 59

L

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses 57

M

MBK Ceramics 61

N

Neptune's Harvest 58

O

Optimara/Selective Gardner 25

P

Pat's Pets 59
Prairie Violets 63
Physan 20 59

R

Rob's Mini-o-lets 60

T

Tanzania Wildlife Fund 64
Teas Nursery 61
Tinari Greenhouses Back Cover
Travis' Violets 58

V

VioletsFun Photo Journal 63
Violets by Appointment 58
Violet House Inside Back Cover
Violet Showcase 57
Violet Venture 58
Volkman Bros. Greenhouses . . . 59



OFFICERS:

Bill Foster, President
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150
email: bpfooster@airmail.net

Jack Wilson, 1st VP
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 22111
email: pwilson941@aol.com

Janet Riemer, 2nd VP
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007
email: jriemer@tiger.junc.net

Linda Owens, 3rd VP
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228
email: lowens4@juno.com

Sue Ramser, Secretary
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
email: ramserwf@wf.net

Meredith Hall, Treasurer
922 E. 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009
email: mhallavsa@aol.com

Esther Edwards Wells, Immediate Past President
948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068
email: sc-ee-wells@worldnet.att.net

STAFF:

Ruth Rumsey, Editor
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702
email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Judith Carter, Advertising Manager
19506 Mills Meadow Ln., Houston, TX 77094
email: AVMads@avsa.org

Jane Rexilius, Publications
5634 Yarwell, Houston, TX 77096
email: janerex@aol.com

Floyd Lawson, Best Varieties, Honor Roll
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007
email: floydll@earthlink.net

Anna Jean Landgren, Tally Time
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091
email: geoajl@aol.com



Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



Season's Greetings

*May you have a wonderful
holiday season with all of the trimmings.*

*Plenty of hope and happiness,
love and laughter, family and friends,
at this time and forever after.*

Happy Holidays!

*Your AVSA Officers
and Staff*

Angie Gary

Mercedeth

Sue

Ruth

Jenny

Sammi Bill

Joanna

J. St. JMC

Janet

Linda

Esther

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

As you know from reading the African Violet Magazine, many of our articles come from AVSA Affiliated Club publications. If I'm not on your club's mailing list, please include me! Although I do have many writers who submit individually to the AVM, I have found the club publications to be a very valuable source of violet growing information.

When AVSA was founded and the decision made to produce a magazine, it was with the intent to give members a forum in which to share the latest news of the African violet world, growing techniques and new ideas. These are still the goals of this publication. Please send me your suggestions for a topic to be covered, an article from a past issue that you feel would be helpful to new growers, or an article about your own growing techniques.

I recently heard from **Paul Sorano** of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. Paul is now available to speak to clubs about the history of the greenhouses that were founded by his grandfather, the late Lyndon Lyon. If you would like to invite Paul to speak to your club, contact him at (315) 429-8291, or by e-mail at www.lyndonlyon.com.

Our friends at the Violet House, **Bebe** and **Bill Edwards**, have over-ordered terra cotta Oyama Planters in the 4" and 5" sizes. Bebe has 200-300 extra planters and will make special

arrangements to clubs who want to order them in quantity. Give Bebe a call at (800) 377-8466.

Our Thinking Small columnist, **Pat Richards**, talks about growing small trailers in this issue. See for yourself that this lady knows what she's talking about! Pat's plant of 'Marion's Enchanted Trail', which won the award for best Trailer at this year's national show is featured on page 32.

Thanks to **Floyd Lawson** for his work on compiling the 1999 Best Varieties List on page 51 of this issue. Consult this list when planning your spring purchases.

As many of you know, our convention dates have been changed. The Omaha Convention is now scheduled from May 21-28, 2000. The January/February AVM will contain your "purple pages", with all of the information you'll need to plan your trip to the Omaha Convention.

With the holidays upon us, AVSA is offering new gift ideas. On page 40 see the Folio Art Glass collection, offered exclusively through AVSA. These unique pieces are serviceable items, as well as unusual collector pieces. Though they will be shipped to you from the AVSA office, they must first be ordered and shipped to Beaumont. Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery.

Happy Holidays!

In September 21, a strong earthquake struck the center of Taiwan. From the news, we saw that houses were destroyed, people were injured or buried. There were more than 2000 people killed in this earthquake. Taiwanese people were very thankful for the help that was offered very soon from all over the world. I personally want to thank everyone who showed concern for my family, friends, and their fellow violet growers in Taiwan by phone calls, e-mails, or letters. It is fortunate that none of my family, friends, or acquaintances were injured or killed; though they suffered different degrees of property damage. I feel deeply sorry for those who lost their lives, families, or property. It will take at least 3 to 5 years to reconstruct the island. If anyone wants to offer help in anyway, please check www.yahoo.com or www.cina.com to learn about Taiwan's earthquake.

Olive Ma Robinson

Dear Ruth,

My name is Joan Reed and I am the new President of Lower Bucks Co., PA. Chapter of the African Violet Society. I first want to inform you that our Club will be celebrating our 25 Anniversary in the Year 2000. It's going to be a very exciting year for us. I am very proud of our Club. We went through a rough year with illness and loss of memberships but we pulled ourselves out and believe we are survivors. I'm sure you know that Bill Lyons is the Cornerstone of our Club. He has worked so hard over the years to make us what we are today; that is, a very close and strong group. Over the years our Club has decreased in size, but we have never decreased in enthusiasm. We have grown in knowledge and we all work very hard through the year to put on a beautiful show.

Joan Reed, President
AVS of Lower Bucks County

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.
Beaumont, TX 77702
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725
(800) 770-2872

Christmas will be here before we know it and AVSA can help with some of your Christmas shopping. A membership to AVSA is a gift that will last all year long. I'm sure we all know someone who can benefit from all the wonderful information we have to offer in each and every issue of the magazine. Please notice the beautiful Folio Art Glass on page 40. These would make wonderful gifts. Circle the ones you want and add them to your wish list for Christmas. Outgoing Affiliate Presidents would really be pleased with one of these fused glass plates or bowls. Help AVSA and make someone happy when you make this Art Glass a gift.

Tammi, our full time AVSA office secretary is out on maternity leave. Her daughter, Cora Ashton was born on Sept. 16th. She weighed 8 lbs. and 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. With Tammi out we have added another part time secretary to help out. Her name is Angie. Joanna and Angie will be here to help you when you call. Joanna, Tammi and I wish you all a nice Thanksgiving and the Merriest Christmas.

Please add the affiliates listed below to your insert from the Sept. Issue of the magazine. They were inadvertently left out of the insert. Also make note of the correction for Judges.

Affiliates

Sundowners AVC

President Darlene Shillinglaw
5869 Country RD K
Waunakee, WI 53597-9412

West Texas AVS

President Marge Savage
2804 Stutz Dr.
Midland, TX 79705-4928

New York City AVS

President Gregory Phillips
128 W 58th St.
c/o Horticultural Society on NY
NY, NY 10019-2103

Billings Bloomers AVS

President Betty Teigen
2033 Ave. D
Billings, MT 59102-2745

Heartland AV and Gesneriad Society

President George Gay
677 Westvaco Rd.
Wickliffe, KY 42087-9000

Gesneriad AV Club

President Jean Miller
6661 Upham Dr.
Arvada, CO 80003-3943

Bellflower AVS

President Sharon Coudyser
5761 Eberle St.
Lakewood, CA 90713-1838

Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges

President Claire Schirtzer
158 W. Hudson St.
Long Beach, NY 11561-1925

AVS of Greater Montreal

President Nancy Tazer
263 St. Jean
Point Claire PQ H93 3J1
Canada

Lafayette AVC

President Nora Cage
106 Wedgewood Dr.
Lafayette, LA 70503-3236

Judges

- ^s Stephanie Duncan
2030 Youngblood Dr.
Hephzibah, GA 30815-4452
- ^x Pierce Cumpton
219 Sunset Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31088-4170
- ^s Rodney Barnett
508 W. Broadway
Red Lion, PA 17356-1910

Library Bulletin

Two new additions to the AVSA library are now available

195L "African Violet Society of Canada Convention & Show, Toronto, Canada, 1999" - 80 slides of beautiful photography highlight this show in which 28 of the top awards were won by men (way to go, guys!)

196L "Basic African Violet Care" - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

WINDOW GROWING VIOLETS

A number of years ago AVSA did a research study of the membership and discovered that 45% of you grow violets at the window. The study went on to find that 86% grew African violets under fluorescent lights, which would seem to indicate that even those who use artificial light often enjoy having violets on their windowsills.

Top competitive growers insist on using fluorescent light to achieve the perfection of growth and flowering required to win shows. Nonetheless, there is a special charm in seeing violets growing on a windowsill. How often have you seen artwork that included a window sill violet? It gives a sense of home, of innocence, and of freshness. It may not be perfect, but it makes us feel good. Window-grown violets deserve their place in glory!

CHOOSING A WINDOW

The real secret to successful window growing is the window itself! Violets prefer to have twelve hours of relatively bright light each day (followed by a period of relative darkness). Not all windows offer this!

Look for a window that is relatively large, allowing lots of light to enter the room. African violets need plenty of bright light in order to grow and bloom well.

Even though bright light is desirable, direct sunlight is usually not preferred. Violets will tolerate only some direct light during the day. In the wilds of Africa, the species of our favorite plant grew under a canopy of overhanging trees which filtered the light. Many window growers find that sheer curtains do wonders in subtly limiting the light without blocking it.

Also consider the temperature at the window. Even with modern air conditioning and heating, it is possible for window temperatures to vary by more than ten degrees from the temperatures in the rest of the room. Steps must be taken to correct situations where a cold draft seeps in during colder

months, or where late afternoon sun beats in during the summer.

The window selected should not be one that is often opened to outside air, if possible. Several insect enemies of violets are able to travel into a home on an air current. Window screens offer very little protection because the insects are so small. No amount of chemical treatment will protect violets if new populations of bugs can enter the room with every breeze.

Look also for the location of heating and air conditioning ducts. Outlets that allow dry air to blow across violets will cause flower buds to wither and die as they are forming causing your plants to remain out of bloom.

Registers that are directly above or below the windows or within a few feet, should either be closed or modified with a cover to direct the air away from your plants.

Be sure your window is convenient for using as a growing area. Counter spaces, living room or dining areas with well-placed shelves, or old-fashioned broad window sills usually work well. High traffic areas may not be as safe for plants.

While these guidelines will help you find the best window, don't give up the hobby if no perfect window is present. Most windows offer at least somewhat brighter light than is usually available in interior spaces. That brighter light is the key to getting violets to flower. The plants may thrive in one window in particular but will probably survive (with proper care) in any window that is available.

FINE TUNING THE LOCATION

Once a good window is chosen, it becomes important to watch how individual violets react in the location. Some hybrids (often those with light green foliage or with very little red in the underside of leaves) will exhibit symptoms of bleaching when grown in very bright windows. This happens because the plentiful light accelerates photosynthesis in the leaves causing the chlorophyll to be depleted. Usually the sup-

ply is refreshed during the nighttime hours when photosynthesis slows. If severe depletion occurs, however, the leaves will lose the vivid green color and perpetually look bleached or faded. These plants need to be set a little further away or off to the side somewhat.

Some hybrids will react to too much light by hugging lower leaves to the sides of the pot. This is not the same as wilting! In this case, leaves will be quite sturdy but stubbornly growing downward. Ideally leaves should develop in a flat wheel that extends horizontally from the center crown. Move these umbrella-shaped plants to a slightly dimmer area and leaves should relax upward. (Please note that some varieties have this habit as a genetic trait. If dimmer light doesn't improve the shape, accept the shape as inevitable.)

Some violets will "reach up" in window light, especially if the light is not quite bright enough. When mature leaves begin to stretch upward, it is an indication that violets are wanting more light than is available. Some varieties are more light-hungry than others! Move these plants as near the window as possible, in the very brightest spot.

Most violets will begin to tip or lean toward the glass even in the best windows. Plants are quite good at positioning themselves to receive the maximum light available. As time passes, however, the leaning may become so exaggerated that the plants are apt to tip over easily. To avoid this, consistently turn the plants to expose all sides to the brighter light. We know one grower who would begin each day by turning each plant in his office window a quarter turn. Other growers with less time might choose to turn plants with each watering.

WATERING AT THE WINDOW

Window-grown plants will not need unusual watering techniques, except that they may dry out slightly faster than plants grown under fluorescent lights. This is because of temperature changes and dryer air that is more likely to be present at windows.

Generally, if plants are in plastic pots, they will do well with a thorough top watering, once a week. "Thorough" means that water is applied until it runs through the pot and into the saucer, followed by a 30-minute stand in that saucer full of water. The saucer must then be emptied so that the plant does not stand in water any longer.

Alternatively, the saucer may be filled so that water is soaked up from the bottom. If the water is completely absorbed in minutes, more water should be added. Again, the saucer should be emptied of any remaining water after a half an hour.

If plants are being grown in clay pots (which have a great look in window sills), you must water more frequently, probably twice a week, using the same methods as above.

Because violets grown at windows can vary in temperature from summer to winter, they are more prone to damage from incorrect water temperatures. The water used must always be within about ten degrees Fahrenheit of the room

temperature (and especially the temperature of the roots in the pot). If violets are sitting in a cold window, warm water can damage them (leaving small circles with a web-like pattern on the leaves). If they are hot on a late summer afternoon, cold water will hurt them as well. Draw water into a jug in advance and store it fairly near the plants. Using this method will guarantee a correct temperature.

Be sure to add some fertilizer to that jug of water, and you will be feeding your plants with every watering. Fertilizer is stable, so the water will keep for several days or weeks without spoiling. Follow label directions carefully, being especially careful not to use too much!

Be especially careful when watering to avoid getting droplets of water on the leaves or in the center of the crown. Any direct sunlight will magnify as it travels through the water droplet leaving a distinct circle of damage on the surface of the leaf. If you do spill, simply blot the leaf dry and move the plant out of the window for a short time.

Because air can be usually dry near the window, especially if there are drafts, you may wish to use a constant-water method such as wicking. This cannot be done with clay pots! If you wish to have a more decorative look than plastic, we would recommend glazed self-watering pots especially designed for violets. The additional advantage of constant water is the increased humidity around your plants which will encourage blooming.

REPOTTING

The downside of window growing is that your violets will need to be repotted more frequently if you want a well-groomed look.

As a violet matures, outside leaves age and sag, needing to be removed. The result of grooming off old leaves is the appearance of an unattractive "neck" or stem under the bottom row of leaves. This happens to all violets, but it seems to happen faster in the window where temperatures tend to be less consistent and as a consequence the plant tissue isn't as sturdy. This means that leaves tend to have softer stems and tend to age fairly quickly.

This neck can be buried easily. First strip away any slightly older and fading leaves, then remove the plant from the pot, cutting away some from the bottom of the rootball, and resetting the plant in the original pot. Fill in with fresh soil around the top, burying the neck. You will have more success if you gently scrape off the dried scab on the neck before burying it so that new roots can develop more quickly. It also pays to be prompt! Repot as soon as any neck is visible and you will not need to cut off as many roots! It is also much less stressful to your plant.

Because window-grown plants are prone to tipping or leaning toward the light, you may need to repot to bury a very crooked stem. In some cases, the crook will be so extreme that you will not be able to level the plant and bury the neck with any roots left attached. In this case, cut away all but an inch

of the stem below the leaves. Scrape the sides of the stem as described above. Next prepare a pot by filling it with fresh moist soil that has lots of porous materials that allow air to remain in the soil. Gently push the violet stem into the center of the pot, being sure that the leaves are level with the sides of the pot. Do not pack the soil down or even press it!! The tiny new roots must have air! Water your plant thoroughly, but allow all excess water to drain off. Then place it in a closed environment (such a sealed plastic bag) so that the plant will have ample humidity to support the leaves until roots are formed. Most plants will be rooted in about a month and be ready to leave the closed container and return to the window. In the meantime, keep it well away from any direct sunlight that could cause overheating.

SOME VIOLETS PREFER WINDOWS

While many violets seem to bloom and grow more consistently with fluorescent lights, there are some that seem to prefer natural light. They grow quickly and bloom freely there.

Many of the species, the original plants that were discovered in Africa, thrive in windows and even bloom better because of temperature variations. The foliage of species plants is more likely to maintain a rich green color in the window, without the bleaching out that is often seen when these plants are grown under lights. Species also tend to have a less perfect form or pattern of growth no matter where they grow, so the irregularities of growth at the window are less noticeable or annoying.

Trailing varieties also seem to enjoy natural sunlight and

are very attractive in hanging containers near a window. Again, the form expected from trailers is often less perfect than what is expected from single crown violets. Few will fault a beautiful trailer because one crown is larger, trails down further, or is more heavily in bloom than the other crowns. The otherwise distressing habit of crowns leaning toward the window actually enhances trailers when they are hanging in pots above eye level. The crowns tip to the side of the pot showing off flowers and foliage. Since hanging plants are usually being grown too high to look into the center of the pot, exposed stems from older crowns are not immediately visible. These plants would not do well if judged in a competitive show, but they are certainly beautiful to see in the window!

THERE ARE LOTS OF REASONS TO GROW AT THE WINDOW

If 45% of the membership of this society is growing at the window, imagine how many in the general public are using that method. Violets grown this way will seldom win prizes at major shows, but they are a delight. A violet in your kitchen window may make it worth the effort to wash dishes. A violet in your living area gives a wonderfully homey look. Violets thriving in bay-windows make long winters seem bearable. Surely violets became such a popular houseplant because they do so well in windows!

Window growing is inexpensive, and available to almost everyone. A friend shares a violet, and it gets set in a window. It requires minimal care to survive and only slightly better care to thrive. And then it blooms. What a source of pride, and it is right there for the neighbors to see!

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from JUNE 1, 1999 - JULY 31, 1999

Antonia De Mattio, Wheat Ridge, CO \$10.00	Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ \$25.00	Spring Branch African Violet Club, Houston, TX \$25.00
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA 2.00	<i>in memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>	Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY 5.00
Sugarloaf Mountain Violet Society, Frederick, MD 1113.43	Mrs. Byron Turner, Dallas, TX 30.00	James H. Gritton, Des Moines, IA 2.00
<i>club disbanded</i>	<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>	David A. Lass, Nahant, MA 50.00
Carol Smith, New York, NY 2.00	Pleasant Hill African Violets, Brenham, TX . 20.00	<i>in memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>
Dorothy C. Maruscak, Pittsburgh, PA 5.00	<i>in memory of L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>	Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA 5.00
Jane B. Sherer, Dora, AL 2.00	First African Violet Society of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC 10.00	Stanley E. Barnes, Clovis, CA 2.00
Ray and Hortense Pittman 20.00	Pomona Valley African Violet Society, Pomona, CA 25.00	Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA 20.00
<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>	<i>in memory of Hilda Douglas</i>	Keith Peregrine, Urbana, IL 10.00
First Nighter African Violet Society, Dallas, TX 35.00	Fort Worth African Violet Society, Fort Worth, TX 10.00	Mary Nemeec, Philadelphia, PA 5.00
<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>	Nancy Reimer, St. Augustine, FL 10.00	Marie Ehrmann, San Francisco, CA 10.00
Joann Osborne, Alpharetta, GA 20.00	Foris Owenbey, Afton, MN 5.00	Doris Inskeep, Urbana, OH 2.00
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France 10.00	Ronald Ennis, Neptune, NJ 5.00	Kathleen Spracklen, Eugene, OR 10.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN 6.00	Amir Foroughi Abari, Hezarjerib St Isfahan, Iran 2.00	Beaumont African Violet Society 25.00
Joy Rohan, Gainesville, FL 10.00	Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC 10.00	<i>in memory of Margaret Vallin</i>
Mrs. Marvel Fox, St. Georges, Bermuda . . . 10.00	Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00	Avsa Executive Committee 75.00
Central Jersey African Violet Society, Fords, NJ . 5.00	Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA 50.00	<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>
<i>on behalf of Craig Reed</i>		
		TOTAL \$1703.43



Dale Martens
2728 Masters Drive
League City, Texas 77573
email martens@wt.net

The amazing things about the AGGS convention in Nashville this year were how many new gesneriad species and hybrids were entered in the show, in the auctions, or shown in the slide presentations. The exciting new plant material includes the small *Chirita tamiana* from Viet Nam. I'm growing one and you'd think the round, shiny leaves were from an African violet species! Maryjane Evans entered that plant as well as *Chirita gamella* **which has stolens!** Best New Introduction went to Mary Bozoian's entry of *Chirita* 'Hotei' hybridized by Frances Batcheller. It has yellow blossoms. Marcia Belisle (Belisle's Violet House) entered a beautiful mini *Sinningia* named 'Caitlin' which is a single to double lavender with a darker center. She's been hybridizing the doubles and is pleased with *Sinn.* 'Mackenzie' which is a rose-red with somewhat darker throat markings. I got from Marcia her pure white miniature *Sinn.* 'Chippew: White Out'. I don't even have the words to describe Jonathan Ertelt's entry of John Boggan's hybrid *Chirita* 'Sweet Dreams' except to say it's exceptional! Jonathan reports that this plant had 6 flower spikes with 140 blooms apiece and 3 smaller spikes with 30 blooms on each for a grand total of almost 1000 blossoms during a 2-1/2 month floral spring display!!

Jerry Trowbridge showed slides of his many new *Columnea* hybrids and he brought dozens of cuttings for raffles and the auction. He's given them names such as *Columnea* 'Red Skelton' and *C.* 'Lucille Ball' and *C.* 'Rudolph Valentino.'

Toshijiro Okuto traveled to convention from Japan and showed slides of his new *Chirita* and *Streptocarpus* hybrids. He has hybridized a strep with distinct yellow on all petals including the upper petals! This is a first! Due to his generosity in donating leaves for auction, I have leaves of the following from his hybridization efforts: *Streptocarpus* 'Big Yolk', *Strep.* 'Akashi', *Strep.* 'Odoriko', and *Strep.* 'Andzu'. Some of these are miniatures/compact.

Sue Hodges from Australia presented an outstanding slide program on the incredible hybrids grown there. These included Charles Lawn's prize winning *Sinningia speciosa*s as well as several of Colin Rampton's amazing hybrids including the

New Gesneriad Hybrids and Species!

floriferous *Sinningia* 'Sun Blaze'. Mr. Lawn's *Sinn. speciosa* 'Only a Rose' is a red beauty. I had on display photos of Jack Evan's *Sinn. speciosa* 'Black Magic' which has nearly black blossoms and resulted from his colchicine experiment.

Peter Shalit entered a *Sinningia* in the educational section as a "work in progress". It had a completely peloric flower. It is radially symmetric and faces straight up. Peloric means that all the blossoms are identical in shape and design. Normally sinningias have shortened, plain colored upper petals and their bottom petals thrust out and have coloration or designs. Peter's plant had blossoms that had five identical petals all with the same designs, just like what one would see in a kaleidoscope.

Two sets of variegated *Streptocarpus* leaves originally from Margaret Gurr (through Toshijiro) in New Zealand proved to be quite popular in the live auction. Yes, I have a leaf now!

Then we come to the smithianthas. My fellow Texan and hybridizer, Connie Leifeste, entered a photo of her new hybrid, *Smithiantha* 'Coronado's Gold' which is a desirable beauty. I showed slides of Masaki Yamagata's smithianthas as well as a display board of photos from seven of his latest hybrids. I'm growing 2 of each and all are so different in leaf coloration and markings that even without blossoms, they make a beautiful display on my light stands. I showed slides of my newest *Smithiantha* hybrids 'Sassy Redhead', 'Golden Leopard' and 'Hot Pink Lady'.

Those who attended the Houston AVSA convention may remember my ornamental foliage entry of Bob Stewart's new hybrid called, *Drymonia* 'Francisco Pizarro.' Many asked if they could touch the big, dark green leaves with silvery veining and deep brown-maroon backing. The toothed/fringed petals show 3 different shades of pink-purple with a golden yellow center.

My deadline for submitting this column has arrived before the first blossoms have opened on a *Streptocarpus* hybrid I grew from seed from Toshijiro Okuto's cross with the fragrant species *Streptocarpus vandeleurii*. There are 11 buds on this first blossom stem! Stay tuned and "next year" I'll let you know if there's a fragrance! Happy Holidays!

Registration Report



Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711

1999 AVML Supplement Correction

Frozen In Time (S. Sorano) Single white stickite cupped pansy/light green and white fantasy, darker green edge. **Variegated** dark green and pink, plain. **Standard**.

Rahim Wilson - Port Orchard, WA

***Orchard's Night Light** (8814) 6/8/99 (R. Wilson) Single white star/pink blush. Dark green, plain, quilted, pebbled **Semiminiature**

.....

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

***Rebel's Blaze Spinner** (8815) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble chimera white pansy/red stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

***Rebel's Cranberry Crème** (8816) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble red-violet large pansy/darker markings, white fluted edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Faith** (8817) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble red pansy/darker eye, variable white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Midnight Sky** (8818) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy. **Variegated** dark green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Purple Heath** (8819) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble purple large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Valiant** (8820) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue star/white ruffled edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. **Large**

.....

Nancy Price - Cedar Falls, IA

***Queen Anne** (8821) 6/26/99 (N. Price) Semidouble purple ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

.....

Janette Regner - Houston, TX

***Gran's Roger** (8822) 7/8/99 (J. Regner) Semidouble lavender/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

.....

Margaret Taylor - Normanhurst, Australia

***Dreamtime** (8823) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Semidouble red star/pink fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Sharon's Way** (8824) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble peach-pink frilled pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Sorcerer** (8825) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble dark purple frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

.....

Karl-Heinz Dornbusch - Woolloomooloo, Australia

***Karl's Illusion** (8826) 7/9/99 (K. Dornbusch) Semidouble pink large frilled star/darker eye. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

.....

Barbara Goodsell - Glenview, IL

***Honey Blue Angel** (8827) 7/12/99 (Goodsell/Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Medium green girl foliage. **Miniature**

.....

Bruno Curcuruto - North York, Ontario, Canada

***B-Man's Auola** (8828) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium blue star. Medium green, plain, spooned. **Standard**

***B-Man's Gracie** (8829) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Melila** (8830) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Moncibello** (8831) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single mauve ruffled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** dark green and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Palma** (8832) 7/29/99 (C. Curcuruto) Double medium pink frilled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

*David Alan * Flying North * Jettie * Lucille Woolever * Steven Dennis * Wild Red

REGISTRATION CHANGE

Dancing Eyes (8759) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/dark rose eye. **Variegated green and white**, plain.

African Violet Pests

by Keith Lind



Aphids can become quite a serious problem to the unwary grower. They are small sap sucking insects that can be green, gray or black in color. They can reproduce very rapidly, and if left unchecked can cause not only wilting of the leaves and discoloration of the plant but also their sticky secretions are very unsightly. Colonies of aphids contain eggs, immature aphids in a nymph-like stage, discarded skins from which the adult aphids emerge, and of course, the adult aphids. Control by spraying with Malathion as required until the pest has been eradicated.

Fungus gnats are classed as pests but few growers believe that they do any damage to African violets. A fungus gnat is in fact a very tiny wasp which lays eggs in the potting medium, and the larvae feed on decaying organic matter such as animal manures or any compost material used. The adult gnats hover around African violet plants looking for partners or suitable areas in which to lay their eggs. The larvae can be found in decaying tissue of roots, crowns and stems affected by root or crown rot. These larvae can be easily identified as they are gray to transparent in color with rather a blunt tail end and black head. They are about two to four millimeters in length. Populations can be controlled by hanging pest strips among the plants, or by drenching the potting mix with either Malathion or Thiodan.

Thrips are tiny insects that can do maximum damage and remain mostly undetected until they have created much havoc among African violets. They are tiny elongated winged insects that can be black, brown or even an orange color. These insects usually do most damage to African violet flowers by sucking the sap from the young petals and causing some flowers to fail to open. Other flowers die prematurely and the petals become brown, dry and papery. Thrips can be seen moving about among the pollen sacs, and flowers that have been attacked will show pollen on the

lower petals. Reports have been received of thrips causing damage to leaves and I am trying to identify leaf damage on African violets which is thought to be done by thrips. Malathion spray is an effective method of control for thrips but it is wise to remove flowers before application.

In all instances where I have mentioned spray please use all precautions on the container and use it at the recommended rate.

Less prevalent than most pests but equally annoying and frustrating are the biting and chewing insects. Caterpillars of various kinds, which are of course the larvae of moths or butterflies, can cause enormous damage if not detected quickly. Large holes and gaps in leaves and droppings under the plant are sure signs that these villains have been at work. I find that loopers are the worst of these invaders as they are extremely hard to find. They hide under the leaves and attach themselves to the center vein during the day and usually feed at night. They are not satisfied with destroying one plant at a time but will move from leaf to leaf or plant to plant, and seem intent on inflicting as much damage as possible, in as little time as possible. They can be green or brown or even shades of red if they happen to be feeding on flowers. Some types of hairy caterpillars can be equally destructive and equally evasive as they too usually feed at night and hide under leaves or under pots during the day. Removal by hand at night with the help of a good flashlight is the best means of eradication from small collections. Spraying with Malathion when caterpillars are very small and known to be present, will prevent serious damage from being done at a later time. The best insurance of all is to close off your growing area with insect proof material so that moths and butterflies cannot get among your plants to lay their eggs.

*Reprinted from The African Violet,
publication of the AV Association of Australia*

Question Box



Ralph Robinson
P.O. Box 9
Naples, NY 14512
email: robsviolet@aol.com



Dorothy Kosowsky
712 Cunningham Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601
email: dot3joe@earthlink.net

Getting back into the swing of things seems to be a constant refrain in my life this past two years, so if it fits a group of other growers with similar problems I can greatly sympathize! My latest misfortune was triggered by an urge to get healthy while giving my dog a happy atmosphere after she was diagnosed with cancer. The goal was to get lots of exercise. The problem was on this last walk, as we were coming down a hill, Dolly decided to stop in front of me. With good momentum I managed to connect with the sidewalk and break my knee cap. Of the things you can do with one leg immobilized, the pickings are mighty poor. After reading and eating you do a lot of limping.

The mail proved to be more interesting and I'd like to make a few comments about urea as a fertilizer which I hope no one will feel are unfair. The latest trend seems to be that urea is a bad form of fertilizer and this is not true. It has been in use for centuries. Poor use of urea and misunderstanding how it should be used are the source of the problems. The number one problem among growers in general seems to be "What is the quickest, easiest way", and as the saying goes "There is no free lunch". Most of the good results in growing, stem from the grower being willing to do what is necessary. Your fertilizer and water contain a great many ingredients, and you need to leach your soil to remove the residue. This should be done at least every six weeks. If you use reservoirs you need to be dumping the solution every two weeks and replacing with fresh as evaporation has made the mix more concentrated, but you still need to leach fairly often. Leaching is the process of running about a quart (less for semiminiatures or miniatures) of clear water through the plant where it can drain quickly, at the sink or in a pail. If you elect to go with a non-urea fertilizer, most of which are very weak, and if you grow many Miniatures and Semiminiatures you do okay. For those trying to grow large plants, it's hard to understand why the outer rows of leaves

become pale and eventually die. The reason is, there just isn't enough nourishment in low numbered fertilizers to support a large plant.

I've often been asked how I water and when I say: "I top water," they seem to think this is too great a task. You do need to gently lift a section of leaves at a time (a group lifted together doesn't tend to break) in order to water large plants, but this also helps flush the residue from the top soil as well as giving personal attention to each plant. I continue to use fertilizers containing urea as I have since I started growing. I rotate varieties of fertilizer and use a weak type every fourth watering as I have found that this gives me more flexibility and a greater choice of trace elements. I feel a weak fertilizer, or just plain water periodically, gives the plants a rest.

KITTY FLEA COLLARS: For all of you that wrote asking for information about their use, please refer to Editor's Notes in the September/October AVM.

QUESTION: *I recently purchased a small light stand with two 24" inch 15 watt Grolux florescent tubes that are 10" from the top of the grating on the 11" x 22" trays. The tubes are side by side (not separated as on my Volkmann stand lights) Does this stand have adequate light for some violets?*

ANSWER: This type of stand does very well for miniatures and semiminiatures as well as your starter plants and for rooting leaves. If you are looking for more distance between the light fixture and the plant you could eliminate the grating and set medium sized plants directly in the trays. I used this size shelf on 3 three tiered stands for many years and never felt it had great drawbacks except for the purchasing of tubes. They are more expensive and as you point out, only 15 watts as opposed to 40 or 35 watts for 4' tubes. Since you have a Volkmann plant stand your

standards will do much better with this type of light and distance from the light source.

QUESTION: *When measuring the diameter of a plant, is it correct to lift the leaves and measure across them?*

ANSWER: This sounds like a question for Shows and Judges. If you are doing your own measuring at home, you can certainly lift the leaves to determine if you wish to repot, remove some leaves or generally work with your plant. However, if you are talking about a show situation, the rules specifically state a judge may not touch the plant. Even if s/he wishes to see whether the plant has a sucker, s/he must ask a clerk to hold the plant up for any inspection. If this is an entries committee problem, they can ask the grower to measure the plant with a ruler or embroidery hoops keeping in mind that leaves may not be touched by the judges. If there is a question, it would be wise to warn the grower that the plant looks like it might be oversized, and there could be a question raised as to the correct size. Often it is possible to remove a row of leaves if the plant is very symmetrical, but the fact that there was a question of lifting the leaves sounds as if it might be somewhat curled under and in this case removing leaves can be very tricky. This is the big advantage of growing on rings; you don't have leaves curling under and the leaves can be kept straighter.

QUESTION: *My husband bought me a lovely African violet at the local grocery store nursery. The floral worker sprayed some oily substance on the leaves to "shine" them up. Will this hurt the leaves and if so how do I remove it?*

ANSWER: Don't you have a lovely thoughtful husband! All plant shines I've seen, are oil based and would not be good for African violet plants. There is a strong doubt in my mind that this plant will do well after being treated in this way, but at least you can try to remove all the oily substance by spraying the leaves with a mild dish soap (1 tsp. per quart) mixed in warm water. Be sure you can drain the plant well as you go along. If you have an old dish drainer, turn it upside down and place the plant at a slant in the groove which would normally support the dishes. When it looks like the oily substance has been removed, rinse very thoroughly. If you keep turning the plant as you work, the suds and the rinse water will run off quickly with the plant at about a 45 degree angle.

QUESTION: *Everything I've read warns against starting leaves in water, yet you still find this method of propagation mentioned in many publications. Why promote a method that is less likely to succeed?*

ANSWER: There are people that have been growing for many years and they still have success with rooting in water. When you ask about the transition between water roots and soil roots they say they do not have a problem. This does cause new growers to ask why many of the clubs show how to put down leaves, but the water method is not included in the demonstration. It's far easier just to say this is possible and point out the problem they may encounter when they try to put the leaf into soil. If "Mother" did it this way you will find yourself speaking heresy as far as this person is concerned. It's better to let them find out that others in the club had better luck with the leaves they got at "Leaf Bingo" using a sterile mix. We all like to succeed and it's often hard to change a long standing mind set except by example.

QUESTION: *Are "beneficial" insects a good method to use in getting rid of thrips?*

ANSWER: It seems to me one insect is bad enough, I'd rather not introduce anymore into the house. I'm a great believer in letting nature solve as many problems as possible. In the garden I depend on the Lady Bugs, some of the birds and just plain washing insects off with a strong spray. I'm not sure I feel comfortable in introducing microscopic predators into the collection in the house. One writer asked what becomes of the predators once the thrips are gone? (I'm not too sure they are gone. If the predator ate all of the thrips there would be no more food and nature seems to work on control, not elimination.) I once ordered Lace Wings and was very disappointed to find not enough food had been supplied when they were sent and only a few survived the trip. I have never been able to promote a good colony of Lace Wings and would really like to do so as they are very "gardener friendly" and a big asset if you are growing tropicals. The Lace Wings were for a greenhouse situation. I'm aware it may be fine to order them for gardens but I wouldn't consider using beneficial insects for a closed environment again. Perhaps the question is "Do you get the insects you order in good condition?"

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.





Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive
Olathe, KS 66062-3004
email: *Patter257@aol.com*

The holiday season is upon us, meaning it's time for family, friends, festivities and tons of food. During this joyous season it's very easy to forget our lovely violets. Remember though, all the good care you give now will result in abundant flowers during the longest and coldest of winter months when bright color in our plant rooms is most enjoyed. Now on to our topic of the day, straying a bit from our ordinary discussion of small ones to slightly modified small ones: trailing miniature and semiminiature African violets.

PLANTS YOU CAN FORGET

The one thing that distinguishes trailing African violets from single crown standards, miniatures and semiminiatures is the single most important reason to grow them. What is this "one thing"? African violet trailers have multiple crowns which grow either upward in a "bush" type fashion or outward in a more typically "trailing" type of fashion. This results in more abundant and continuous bloom, less stringent daily care, and rewards that are multiplied time and again. Suckering is allowed, in fact, it is a good thing, and often is encouraged. Talk about a time saver!

The hybridizer determines the size of the trailer, basing this designation on leaf size: the leaves of microminiatures are approximately one-fourth by one-half inch, miniatures are one-half by 1 inch, semiminiatures are 1 by 1 and one-half inch, and standards are 1 and one-half by 2 inches. Because of the multiple crowns, miniature and semiminiature trailers do not have the same diameter restrictions as their single crown counterparts, and may be grown in any container which is proportionate to the plant. Giving witness to this is the spectacular specimen of 'Tiny Wood Trail', grown by Alice Grundy, which took Best in Show honors at the

1995 AVSA convention in St. Louis. This cultivar is a miniature trailer which measured over 16 inches across, yet each leaf had remained very small and size appropriate. (See the cover of the September 1995 African Violet Magazine to refresh your memory of the truly exquisite nature of this expertly grown specimen!).

The final point to be made about trailing African violets is they are a tremendously forgiving, hardy *Saintpaulia*. Unlike their single crown counterparts, they grow very well in natural light, flourishing and blooming in north and east exposures, and in south and west exposures with some protection from the hot, direct sun. They require turning to keep their "form" nice and rounded, but other than that, because of their multiple crowned habit, take very kindly to being window grown and are far more forgiving of neglect as flaws in their form take much longer to develop and are not so obvious as flaws in the symmetry of a single crown cultivar. Similarly, because of the genes they inherited from their species ancestors, they have taken on a remarkable hardiness. While this should not be said in such a candid manner, they take abuse quite well, withstanding under watering, under fertilization, and lack of grooming very well. Simply put, they are very hardy and forgiving.

WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER

Most of us will acquire our trailers as small starter plants or as plantlets from leaves. At this point treat them no differently than any other small one.

In a few weeks to a few months you will notice one thing: suckering! When this begins, it should be encouraged. If your trailer does not sucker, but instead wishes to remain single crown, gentle guidance is in order. When the single

crown reaches about 2-3 inches in height, pinch out the growing center (using your fingernails or a sharp knife) and replant it to root and give to a friend. After several weeks you should see new crowns developing from the axils on the main plant. A good trailer should have no fewer than three crowns, and as it matures will develop many more. If your plant wishes to remain single crown, it's probably been misnamed.

Most trailers don't need special guidance, but these are the things you should look for: multiple crowns spread fairly evenly around the main stem. Ideally they should form a round, continuous "ball" or mass of foliage. Once the foliage extends beyond the diameter of the pot it's time to "pot up" into a slightly larger pot, and it is here that trailer type and trailer theorists diverge.

There are two basic types of trailers: bush type or semi-trailer, which put out multiple crowns that grow upright and do not have a great tendency to "trail" or "sprawl." Then there are the true trailing types, which happily put out numerous crowns that are fast growing in both a vertical and horizontal fashion. With the bush type, once the main set of crowns is developed, additional pinching is not critical. With the trailing type, however, pinching is far more critical or you end up with a wagon wheel effect instead of a nicely rounded, well-formed plant.

And here lies the divergence: many growers simply pinch and move on. This works well, but if you want to grow the "ultimate" trailer with many crowns, lush growth, and vigor, then you must take one extra step at this juncture. While it seems harsh, it must be done and it does work! When the growing tips have been pinched, trim off the foliage as well, particularly on the side of the stem that is closest to the soil. When you remove each leaf, do it very carefully so as to leave a "nubbin" of the petiole. In so doing, you'll leave intact the axil from which new suckers will sprout. If you fail to leave the axil, no matter what, a new crown cannot develop. I always leave on a few leaves evenly spaced around the stems to allow for photosynthesis, but for the most part the stems are bare. The result will be roots forming from spots where the stems contact the soil (remember, we started with one main plant, one main stem, one set of roots), and new crowns forming on top of the stems. Once your trailer gets going in this fashion, there's no stopping it. An occasional pinching to keep stems from becoming bare and new, fresh growth developing is a good idea, as is frequent potting up or freshening of soil. Enjoy!

FAVORITES

Here's the best part: making recommendations for a wide variety of trailers beginning with the miniatures. 'Tiny Wood Trail' by Khoe is excellent. It stays very tiny and trails naturally. It has masses of blue bell-shaped blooms atop pointed, dark green foliage. 'Blustery Trail' (Lyon) is a delightful, yet more difficult to grow trailer requiring a little more attention.

Again, it has bell-shaped dark blue blooms produced on top of dark green foliage. Unlike 'Tiny Wood Trail' it does not trail so readily and is not as vigorous.

As for the semiminiatures, 'Milky Way Trail' (Stahl) is a perennial favorite with massive production of white blooms atop apple green, freely trailing foliage. Another great white is 'Falling Snow' (Tracey), a very vigorous, extremely heavy blooming trailer with light green foliage. 'Lil Runaround' (Sorano) is tremendous. Almost ever-blooming, it has puffs of white to blush-pink blooms with light green foliage. It does need to be pinched for best results. 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' is an absolute classic. A tremendously vigorous trailer with nonstop medium pink blooms. Rob also has many other trailers that fall into this "classic" realm, including 'Rob's Boolaroo', (pink with blue spot fantasy), 'Rob's Toorooka', (rose with some white tips), 'Rob's Jindalee', (like 'Rob's Toorooka', only more blue), 'Rob's Gundaroo', (breathtaking silky-blue blooms with white reverse), 'Rob's Lilli Pilli', (beautiful striped fantasy of pastel lavender and pink), just to name a few. 'Dancin' Trail', a Lyndon Lyon classic, has beautiful almost true deep red blooms that are produced almost nonstop atop semi-trailing type dark green with red-backed foliage. The color combination on this one is quite striking. 'Marion's Enchanted Trail' (Pittman) tends more toward the semi-trailing type, freely producing many crowns from which absolute masses of medium blue blooms are produced. The most attractive feature of this plant are the bright yellow pollen sacs which accent each bloom. Another great trailer by Pittman is 'Sundown Trail', again, a semi-trailer with dark, pointed, shiny foliage and copious amounts of dark blue double blooms.

Try a miniature or semiminature trailer today . . . if you're unsure which one to try, contact your favorite commercial and ask what they recommend. Try one and fall in love forever! Happy holidays to everyone, and we'll talk again next time!

Recommended reading:

Egan, Patricia, "Trailers Under Control", 46 African Violet Magazine 3, May-June 1993, p. 38.

Kisamore, Chisako, "The Japanese Technique For Growing African Violet Trailers", 45 African Violet Magazine 6, November-December 1992, p. 51.

Miller, Ardath, "Growing & Showing African Violet Trailers", 50 African Violet Magazine 1, January-February 1997, p. 26.

Beaulieu, John, "Happy Trails to You", 50 African Violet Magazine 5, September-October 1997, p. 52.

Robinson, Ralph, "Notes on Trailing African Violets", 51 African Violet Magazine 3, May-June 1998, p. 22

Or check out some of the great trailer information in the AVSA library: "Growing Beautiful African Violet Trailers" a video by Anna Jean Landgren or "Trailers-Making Them Do What I Want Them To Do" a slide presentation by Bev Promersberger.

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
06JLSmith@BSUVC.BSU.EDU

A reader recently asked if anyone was hybridizing with "Supreme" foliage these days. This type of foliage is an interesting trait from the early history of African violets and may be unfamiliar to newer growers. "Supreme" foliage is known for its larger leaf size, wider spacing between the leaves, and general coarseness of growth. The foliage is also somewhat brittle and the leaves tended to break easily in shipping or during transportation to shows. "Supreme" foliage is the result of a tetraploid chromosome number. Instead of the plants having two sets of 15 chromosomes for a total of 30, "Supreme" plants have four sets of chromosomes for a total of 60. The larger number of chromosomes produces larger cells and leaves. Tetraploids can be an improvement over regular plants, such as in daylilies, but they are usually only marginal improvements in African violets. While it is still possible to find these plants (also known as "Amazons") among the Vintage Violets, I do not know that any hybridizer is currently working with this foliage trait.

***Q:** I wish to cross 'Love Spots' (dark purple with pink puff fantasy on non-variegated foliage) with 'Sarava' (lilac with a wide white edge on variegated foliage). My goal is to produce a light purple with pink puff fantasy and wide white edges on variegated foliage. Can I achieve this goal with this cross?*

A: I believe that this cross will achieve your goal as long as the variegated plant is used as the seed parent. The purple color will dominate over lilac and I would expect about 50% of the flowers to be light purple. Puff fantasy is a dominant trait, so about 50% of the offspring should have fantasy flowers. The white edge should show up in nearly all the offspring, but the edge may not be as "wide" as you might like. If the seed parent has variegated foliage, then nearly all of the

offspring should be variegated. When all of these traits are multiplied together, about 25% of the offspring should be in the combination of your goal. It sounds like you have a very pretty plant as your goal. Good Luck!

***Q:** I understand that many of today's traits in African violets are the result of mutations or sports. Is there anything you can recommend that a local grower could use to cause new mutations?*

A: While you are correct that many of today's traits such as pink flowers, star shape, geneva edges, etc., first appeared as mutations, I'd hesitate to recommend something you could use to cause more of them. A mutation is a change in the DNA or the genetic material of a cell. Certain types of chemicals and radiation are two ways to change a cell's DNA. However, anything you use to alter the DNA of an African violet could also cause a change in your DNA and I'd be concerned for your safety.

Many of our important mutations showed up first in leaf cuttings. The new plants that develop from leaf cuttings originate from single cells. If there are any spontaneous changes in the DNA of these cells, then the new plant will be a sport or mutation. You might try growing a bunch of plants from leaf cuttings and keep your eyes open for some of these genetic changes. With any luck, you'll have a relatively safe way to watch for new mutations.

For whatever it's worth, there have been reports in the literature of individuals who treated African violet seed or leaf cuttings with radiation in the hope of creating new mutations. The success rate of these experiments was very low and few if any of the mutations were an improvement over current plants. In fact, I'd be hard pressed to give an example of a useful trait in African violets that was created by a purposeful mutation in an experiment. I think your time might be better

spent in combining current genetic traits in new combinations rather than trying to create new mutations.

Q: I like the long unusual foliage of 'Celery'. If I want to hybridize more plants with this type of foliage, should I start with 'Celery' as a parent or are there other ways to create this type of foliage?

A: I also like the unusual appearance of 'Celery'. It looks so little like an African violet, I often have trouble getting people to believe it actually is one. I believe the foliage of 'Celery' is a combination of two traits, bustled foliage and longifolia foliage. Bustled foliage is a genetic dominant and many of the Jimmy Dates' hybrids have this trait. Longifolia foliage is less common, but if you check the Master Variety List you should locate some cultivars with this foliage type. A cross of a plant with bustled foliage and one with longifolia foliage should

create a plant similar to 'Celery'. This might be easier than starting with 'Celery' itself as this cultivar does not flower regularly and could be difficult to get seed set to take place.

Q: If I cross a plant with blue flowers with reverse fantasy to a plant with purple flowers and green edges, can I get a blue reverse fantasy with green edges?

A: Yes, I believe about 25% or more of the offspring should have this combination. Reverse fantasy and green edges are both dominant traits. If each parent has only one copy of the trait, then about half of the offspring should also inherit the trait. The chance of getting both traits together would be the product of their individual chances, or about 25%. If either plant has two copies of the trait, then the odds will go up. It sounds like this would be an interesting combination of traits.



“How Do I Get My Plants To Bloom?”

by Ruth Greico

I think the most frequently asked question is, “How do I get my plants to bloom?” I guess most of us know the answer to that. Very simply, the plants need a combination of sufficient light and fertilizer to put forth blooms. If you grow your plants under artificial light, control of light is obviously much easier than if grown in natural light. The general rule is that under artificial light, the plants want 11-12 hours of illumination a day (this varies somewhat depending upon how close your plants are to the light source). Many of us have our fluorescent lights on timers, which takes the guess work out of the process.

If you grow in natural light, it is far less exact. Winter days give us only 9 to 10 hours of possible daylight but, at best, it's dim and, at worst, it's nonexistent! Once we enter spring and the daylight hours extend, the plants do show signs of perking up.

Now, if you have your plants on a consistent fertilizing schedule, the plants may have the perfect combination for producing blooms. There actually is a very big difference between using full strength fertilizer once a month or quarter strength fertilizer with every watering. Where African violets are concerned, quarter strength fertilizing is the way to go,

since it provides the plant with a constant source of minerals and nutrients. Do remember that fertilizers can build up in the soil and around the edge of your pots. (You've all probably seen the crusty build-up on the inside edges of your pots. These are fertilizer salts). About once a month you should “flush” your plants with clear, unfertilized water. By “flushing” I mean watering from the top and letting the water run through the plant several times. This will prevent the fertilizer from building up.

There is one more essential element that has to be added to the solution of getting your plants to bloom and that is a temperature above a minimum of 67°. Your plants really DO want to bloom, however, if the temperature is too low, your plant will conserve its energy by not making blooms, and will use its energy to stay green. Too-low temperatures also bring on another whole set of problems but that is another article for another day!

Good luck and happy growing!

*Reprinted from Ye Bay Stater,
publication of the Bay State AVS*

Well-Traveled Violets

by John G. Adney
Marion, Iowa

Wind, chill and snow surround my house as I plot a second winter in a warm climate with my African violets. My collection, which includes several other gesneriads, is becoming well-traveled following a four-month stay in the Desert Southwest this past winter.

My wife Pat, a traveling registered nurse, makes these warm-climate escapes possible. Her first was at Yuma, Arizona, where we and the plants spent January through much of April. The journey proved that African violets can be hauled some 5,000 miles and survive (well, most of them survived).

Of the more than 100 AVs, *Streptocarpus*, *Ecudonia*, *Episcia*, *Petrocosmea* and *Alsobia* that made the round-trip with us, only seven bit the dust -- five on the drive to Yuma, two on our return to Iowa.

After Pat learned that she had been assigned to a clinic in Yuma, I hovered over my plants and wondered how they would fare with a plant-sitter. I had bad vibes about the idea. Pat suggested we take the collection with us.

The first task was finding enough plastic sweater boxes to hold the plants. I found some on sale at a craft store. Two weeks before the big move I began preparing the plants for the trip. I removed all blossoms so the AVs could concentrate on staying healthy rather than blooming. I ceased fertilizing and watered them only enough to prevent them from going limp. AVs do not enjoy being shipped wet in a closed environment.

The night before we left, I took the plants from their light shelves, cleaned any that needed it, and packed them in the plastic boxes, separating each plant with crumpled newspapers. My camper on my pickup truck was loaded the day before with items we would need. The plant boxes were stacked behind the seat in the cab the next morning, just before we were ready to leave.

The thermometer hovered around 25 degrees F. below zero. The wind was gusting and light snowflakes were dusting the ground. I parked the pickup close to the front door of our house. Then we dashed to and fro, carrying boxes as fast as we could because the AVs would not survive the deep freeze. With that chore completed, we fled wintery

Iowa.

We took our time, stopping to visit relatives or to sample local attractions along the way. At each evening stop, at a motel or someone's house, we carried each box from the pickup into our "home" for the night. Each morning, we moved them back to the truck.

The boxes were opened and plants inspected each evening. Only a few were sulking. Damaged leaves were removed. Plants that were really limp received a slight amount of water. By the time we settled in at Yuma, we had lost five plants -- not bad for a load of more than 100.

The plants were finally unpackaged after a week long trip and placed on plastic shelves we erected in front of the French doors of our ground-floor apartment. They received good light but no direct sun. They enjoyed their winter home as much as we did.

Normal fertilization and watering resumed after the gesneriads were in their new home. Yuma's salty water is not fit for man nor beast, so only bottled water was used. I experimented with one African violet, giving it "normal" Yuma water. It became quite unhappy, so it was unpotted, its roots cleaned and then it was returned to the freshly-scrubbed pot in a soilless mix free of salt residue.

When it was time to leave Yuma in mid-April, the packing and transportation process was repeated. Each evening the boxes were carried into a motel and each morning they went back to the pickup. Only two AVs were lost on the return trip; both were too damp and their leaves turned to mush about half-way home.

Now it's time to prepare for another winter outing. We're not sure where we'll be going as I write this, but I know the African violets and their cousins will go with us. The trip will involve a larger number of plants because my collection has grown.

I was disappointed to lose five African violets and two *Streptocarpus*, but I was even more upset when we arrived home. The plant-sitter had failed to take proper care of the houseplants left behind, and most were dead. Thankfully, I had decided to trust no one with my gesneriads except me.



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger
17415 Charter Pines Drive • Monument, Co 80132
clubs@avsa.org

Are you looking for a club in East Central Minnesota or Midland, Texas? The following clubs are organizing and are looking for members to share their interest in growing African violets. If you live in either of these areas, you can find out more by contacting the following growers:

East Central Minnesota - **Denise Roos**
330 First Street • Mora, MN 55051-1331
(320) 679-0101 • jester@ncis.com

Midland, Texas - **Marge Savage**
2804 Stutz Drive • Midland, TX 79705
(915) 699-4296 • savagetom@juno.com

Meets at:
Lynn-Marie's Gifts
11 Meta Drive • Midland, TX 79701
Third Saturday each month, 3:00 p.m.

If you are looking for club members in order to share your hobby, be sure to check the AVSA web site at <http://www.avsa.org/affiliates> or the September issue of The African Violet Magazine for our affiliate listings. If you don't find an affiliate (club) in your area, contact me for a packet designed to help you get started. Our committee is eager to help you share your interest with others in your area.

What Do Those Numbers on the Fertilizer Label Mean?

by Dave Neal • Dyna-Gro Corporation, San Pablo, CA

While it is generally understood that the three numbers on the fertilizer label refer to nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), few understand the real meaning of the numbers. The first number refers to the percentage, by weight, of elemental nitrogen regardless of the form in which it is present. Nitrogen generally is present as urea - $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$, ammoniacal nitrogen - NH_4 , or nitrate nitrogen - NO_3 . The weight of the carbon, oxygen and hydrogen atoms in these various nitrogen containing molecules is not counted.

However, things are different when we get to phosphorus and potassium. Phosphorus is expressed as the percentage, by weight, of the phosphate molecule - P_2O_5 . Potassium is expressed as the percentage, by weight, of potash or K_2O . From the atomic weight of phosphorus (31) and oxygen (16) we can calculate the percentage the weight of the phosphate molecule which is actually phosphorus - 43.66%. Similarly, from the atomic weights of potassium (39) and oxygen, we can calculate the percentage of potash that is potassium - 82.98%.

What this means is that a fertilizer which is labeled as 10-10-10 is, in reality, 10% elemental nitrogen, 4.366% elemental phosphorus ($10 \times 43.66\%$) and 8.298% elemental potassium ($10 \times 82.98\%$) by weight or 10-4-8 in elemental terms.

There are dangers in over-simplifying the roles of these and other elements. Certainly nitrogen plays a major role in promoting leaf and stem growth. The nitrate and ammoniacal

forms of nitrogen are used directly by plants for stem and leaf growth as well as in the chemical structure of proteins, hormones, chlorophyll, vitamins and enzymes.

The urea form of nitrogen must be broken down by soil borne microorganisms into one of these usable forms. Obviously, if you are growing in a sterilized medium, no microorganisms will be present to accomplish this function leaving the urea to burn leaf tips and roots.

While a common misconception, there is no scientific evidence that phosphorus "promotes flowering." Most scientists believe that lower levels of nitrogen are more important to flower initiation. Phosphorus does play important roles in seed germination, photosynthesis, protein formation, overall growth and metabolism as well as flower and fruit formation. Large amounts of phosphorus, without correspondingly larger amounts of zinc, can lead to zinc deficiency.

The statement that "potassium ... promotes root growth," has no scientific support. Root growth is stimulated by certain naturally occurring plant hormones, namely indole-3-butyric acid and 1-naphthalene acetic acid. These hormones are available in some commercial plant root stimulation products, including KLN Concentrate from Dyna-Gro Nutrition Solutions.

Potassium is important in the formation of sugars, carbohydrates, proteins and cell division. Potassium is important to plants in adjusting water balance, improving stem rigidity and cold hardiness. Potassium improves color and oil content of fruits and is important for leafy crops.

Saintpaulia Species Growing Habits

The following article was originally taken from the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges' Yearbook, and it offers a ready reference on the growing habits of Saintpaulia species. It is important to understand how they respond to the environment in order to grow the best species.

Most species grow beautifully with very, very low light. My suggestion is two bulbs that are almost burnt out. The amount of light a species receives will sometimes affect the color of the leaf and blossom. *S. diplotrichia punter* #6 in high light has a leaf that is darker green in color with blossoms medium to dark lilac. Its oldest row of leaves will hug the pot while upper leaves will remain flat. In very low light, *S. diplotrichia punter* #6 has a medium green leaf with pale to medium lilac blossoms. Leaves will lay very flat and grow much larger. Plants that can take regular strength 40 watt, 2 bulb fixtures with normal distance from the light are: *S. magungensis minima*, *S. grandifolia* #237 and *S. grandifolia* #238.

S. pendula* var. *kizarae - Easy to bloom, this is a natural trailer that trails easily. Remove larger leaves to improve form and induce new suckers.

S. pendula - Quite difficult to bloom and grow! Larger thicker furred leaves than var. *kizarae*.

S. magungensis - Easy bloomer. Larger leaves than var. *occidentalis*. Thrives on moisture and humidity. Leaves curve downward.

S. magungensis* var. *minima - Very difficult to grow and bloom! Tiny leaves.

S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis - Easy bloomer. More pointed leaves tend to cup.

S. orbicularis* var. *purpurca - Easy bloomer.

S. teitensis - Blossoms hide under leaves. Medium to dark green shiny leaves.

S. shumensis - Blue ribbon if it has three or four blossoms! Miniature in size. Needs a lot of humidity to grow.

S. brevopilosa - Miniature to semiminiature in size. Heavy bloomer with dark blue flower.

S. diplotricha - Easy bloomer, pale lilac.

***S. diplotricha punter* #6 and #7** - One has sawtooth leaf; the other round. Easy bloomer.

S. velutina - Good bloomer. Dark, heavily veined. Don't overfeed or overwater.

S. difficilis - Easy bloomer. Foppy leaf with deep veining.

S. House of Amani - Easy bloomer.

***S. rupicola* (dark)** - Easy to bloom. Low light and cool temperatures.

S. nitida - Easy to bloom. Grow in cool temperatures. Modest in low light. Bright green shiny leaves.

S. confusa - NOT a heavy bloomer. True purple bloom. Needs

more water and higher humidity. Seems to like low light and will bloom better than in high light.

S. goetzeana - Extremely difficult to bloom and grow. Plant with eight blooms is definitely best in class. Likes extreme cold and low light.

S. Sigi Falls - Medium to difficult to bloom, depending on area grown. In natural light grows best in warm temperatures.

Usually Grown Single Crowned:

***S. grandifolia* #327** - Floriferous bloomer. Can be grown in a dark closet! Light green somewhat transparent foliage has some crinkling, but not as much as #299.

***S. grandifolia* #299** - Floriferous bloomer. Can be grown in a dark closet! Darker green foliage - somewhat mottled appearance.

S. intermedia - Good bloomer. Starts single crowned, but eventually can be made to trail.

S. ionantha - Large good bloomer. Best as a single rosette.

S. tongwensis - Easy to grow. Long strap-like leaves. Tend to look almost variegated with unusual mottled patterns, somewhat like Lillian Jarrett foliage. As plant ages, blossoms sometimes look almost chimera-like.

No Form Whatsoever

S. orbicularis - Can't decide if it is a trailer, buncher or a single crowned plant. Seems to have a constant "neck" problem. Blossoms readily with very pale blue blossoms with blue eye. Blossoms drop easily - looking at them will do it!

S. grotei - Difficult to bloom and grow other than in HOT weather. Give more credit when blooming between November and February. Grows air roots which should not be faulted.

Others (Not Considered Official Species by AVSA):

White *Ionantha* - New introduction, white blossom. Light green, rather weak foliage. Can be a heavy bloomer, but will probably never get larger than a semi or mini to small standard. Needs warm area in which to grow when grown in cool area, the blossom begins to get a pale lilac cast to it.

Robertson - A large growing, light green foliage plant with medium blue blossoms. Very vigorous.

Velutina Lite - Sport of *S. velutina*. Very small velutina-like leaves more of the olive green shade than the dark shade of velutina. Blossom is an off-white with a dark blue eye. A true miniature; will not get any larger than 4 or 5 inches diameter.

Sport of grotei - Chimera flower. Likes high light. Can be grown as a trailer.

Rupicola Lite - Variation on original. Blossoms are lavender. Internodes are much closer together, giving plant a more compact look.

“And the winners are ...”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, Ode to Beauty, The Alps, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* #7; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Timid Teen, Chimpansy, Rob's Zero Gravity; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Flash; Best Miniature: Alan's Baby Bonnet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Olive Robinson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Jean Samiec**. Best Design, **Diane Johanson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, New Attitude, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Oksana, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Semiminiature: Oksana; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Trail Along, **Margaret Califano**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Aquarius, Mac's Halcyon's Horizon, Boo Man; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sarah; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie'; Best Design, **Helen Gifford**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Helen Tanski**. Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**.

DELAWARE AVS, DE – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Party Print, Desir; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Little Pro, Teen Sweetheart; Best in Show/Best Standard: Desir; Best Miniature: Rob's Willie Nilly; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Will Scarlet'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dandy Lion, **Barbara LaFasha**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Andrea Pirone**. Design Sweepstakes, **Angie Celano**.

EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Raspberry Rose, Cherries 'n' Cream, Something Special; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Trails, Milky Way Trail, Sundown Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Standard: Raspberry Rose; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Boolaroo, **Wayne Watts**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', Gloria Slater. Design Sweepstakes, **Ken Wilkinson**.

HOOSIER AVS, IN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Rain Man, Granger's Fantasy Lace; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bashful Baby, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best

in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Mini Papa, Rob's Whodunit; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Museum of Art', **Gary Mikita**. Best Standard: Bubblegum Halo; Best Design, **Lois Matusak**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Debbie Reising**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lela Marie, Cinnamon Ruffles; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Lee Smith**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Lollipop Kid, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Stockholm; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave, **Brenda Brasfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: (tie) Pink Pussycat, Irish Flirt, Magic Blue, **Ann Shirley**; Milky Way Trail, Foxwood Trail, Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Lee Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Moonlight Valley'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Shirley**. Design Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pink Skies, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Ted Berginc**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Teen Craze, Optimara Little Crow; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mickey Eberle**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Glacier, **Wally Orlinski**.

AVS OF CANADA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Perhaps Love, Pearls 'n' Rubies; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Curcuruto, **Bruno Curcuruto**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desir, Picasso, Aca's Red Ember; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Dove, Rob's Smarty Pants, Aca's Pink Pet; Best Semiminiature: Lakeshore Silver; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Whodunit, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Daphne Yaremko**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Bob McCabe**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS, OH – Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Standard: Iced Mocha; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'White Sprite'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Jones**. Best Miniature: Tiny Moon Goddess; Best Design, **Terena Stotler**. Design Sweepstakes, (tie) **Shirley Jones** and **Terena Stotler**.

Temperature

The majority of the gesneriads will grow just fine in our standard room temperatures. It would be safe to say that most would enjoy a temperature of 75°F. Most gesneriads, including African violets, do not like to drop below 60°F, and growth will slow down at those temperatures.

Some gesneriads, such as the *Streptocarpus* are fine at cooler temperatures. They will in fact seem to wilt during the very high temperatures in the summertime. I usually leave some of my *Streptocarpus* outside (in protected areas) until the first light frosts in the fall!

The *Episcia* are warmth loving plants and would be quite happy at 80°F. Because of their temperature requirements, they never seem to do well outside, even during good summer weather. Although I understand that they will do fine outside in Florida and California.

If you grow on a 3 or 4 tier light stand, you may find that you will have the best luck by placing *Streptocarpus* on the lower shelves and putting the warmth loving *Episcia* on the upper shelves.

In the wild, the temperature will drop at nighttime and indoors it happens as well, although not usually much. Providing a drop at night for your plants is not really needed.

Good ventilation is another important consideration for your plants. When possible, plants seem to love fresh air. Polluted air can be very damaging to plants. Pollution is also responsible for bud blast in many gesneriads.

Keep your gesneriads out of cool drafts and be sure to provide protection from cold windows, if that is where you grow your plants.

Be aware of how hot regular incandescent light bulbs can get and be careful to keep your plants a safe distance from these bulbs, if you are using them to supplement natural light for your plants.



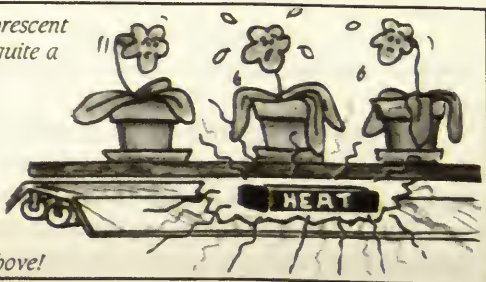
Warmth loving varieties on the top shelf.

Varieties that prefer cooler temperatures on the lower shelves.



In the cooler months, protect your plants from drafts and cold windows.

The ballast of fluorescent fixtures gives off quite a bit of heat and a ballast that is positioned right under a shelf could produce enough heat to adversely affect plants growing above!



Humidity

With most Gesneriads coming from tropical-like regions, they naturally prefer a fairly high humidity. They would certainly like to have a humidity of at least 50%. This can be difficult, especially in the colder months when our furnaces are on and drying out our indoor air. Providing the ideal humidity for your plants would also cause major damage to your windows as all that moisture could collect on the colder window panes.

It is better to provide any extra humidity on a micro environment scale. There are many ways that you can put extra moisture just around your plants. The most common method used over the years has been to use a water tight tray with pebbles in it. The plants sit on pebbles, out of the water. The water provides the extra humidity. A tray of water can be covered with plastic grating and the plants can sit on the grating, and can even be wicked into the water!

Misting your plants, although very beneficial to some, only provides them with very temporary extra humidity.

Grouping your plants together does provide a small micro climate around the plants, usually helping to hold some extra humidity.

A simple 'humidiguide' will show that it is possible to have 75% humidity around your plants in a room that is generally at 40% humidity.



Methods of increasing humidity ...



Plants sitting in a pebble tray enjoy extra humidity. Do not allow the water in the tray to touch the bottom of the pots!



Plants sit on grating above trays of water. This method allows you to wick water and supply increased humidity, at the same time.

Both articles were reprinted from "An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and their Relatives" by John Beaulieu

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 11:07 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
2 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
3 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
4 Thu. 6:56 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
5 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
6 Sat. 4:45 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
7 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 10:55 pm
8 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
9 Tue. 4:15 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
10 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
11 Thu. 5:00 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
12 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
13 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
14 Sun. 5:46 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
15 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
16 Tue. 4:21 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 4:04 am
17 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
18 Thu. 10:58 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
19 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Sun. 1:26 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
22 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
23 Tue. 1:14 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 2:04 am
24 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
25 Thu. 12:29 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
26 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
27 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
28 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Mon. 5:11 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 6:19 pm
30 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th

December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed. 12:29 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
2 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
3 Fri. 10:36 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
4 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
5 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
6 Mon. 10:28 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
7 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	New 5:52 pm
8 Wed. 11:14 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
9 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
10 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
11 Sat. 11:59 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
12 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
13 Mon. 11:18 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
14 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:50 pm
16 Thu. 7:30 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
17 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
18 Sat. 11:45 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
19 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
20 Mon. 12:59 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
21 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
22 Wed. 11:52 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	Full 12:31 pm
23 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
24 Fri. 11:52 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
25 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
26 Sun. 1:54 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
27 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
28 Tue. 7:15 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
29 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th 9:05 am
30 Thu. 4:37 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
31 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

The "Facts of Light"

for African Violets

by Carla Ryan

Why is light important?

African violets require bright diffused light in order to grow and bloom well. If an African violet fails to bloom, the most common reason is insufficient light. This is particularly true for plants grown in natural light.

What kind of light is best for my plants?

Both fluorescent lighting and natural light will produce excellent results if correct cultural practices are followed. Because the amount of natural light your plants receive can't be completely controlled, they may not bloom as often in the winter months as they do at other times of the year.

How can I tell if my plants are not getting enough light?

If the leaves of your plant are smaller than usual, the petioles are longer than normal, and the plant looks like it is reaching straight up to the light, try giving it more light. Lack of flowering is also an indication that more light is needed.

What are the signs that a plant is getting too much light?

If the leaves on your plant are bleached, burned, or yellowed, and the center of the plants looks tight (crowded), try giving it less light.

How can I produce better symmetry?

Plants grown in natural light must be given a quarter turn twice a week to promote symmetry. Plants grown in artificial light must also be turned occasionally, especially if they are growing at the ends of the fixture.

What types of artificial light can be used?

Fluorescent lights are the most economical and produce the best results. Incandescent lights are really too hot and consume too much electricity to be used as a primary source of light. I have seen incandescent spotlights used successfully to supplement natural light when nothing else was practical but fluorescent lights are still the first choice for that purpose. High intensity lighting may work in a basement, but produce too much heat and too much light for a living area. They are slightly more economical to operate than fluorescent lights, but are really best for plants with high light requirements such as some large gesneriads.

What types of fluorescent light bulbs are best?

Cool white, warm white and Grow-Lux WS all produce

excellent results, either alone or in combination. I use a combination of one F40 Cool White and one Grow-Lux WS, because I like the color of the light and feel they last longer. Let your budget and personal tastes be your guide when buying bulbs.

What type of fixtures are best?

The "plant light" type of fixture produces a more even light over the entire shelf than the "shop light" type of fixture, which concentrates light in the middle of the shelf. Forty watt bulbs are also easy to find and often cost less than smaller sizes. Longer fixtures give even more usable light, if you have room for them, but it is more difficult to find bulbs for them.

How often should I replace fluorescent light bulbs?

Regular cool white bulbs need to be replaced once per year. If you buy extra-long-life bulbs or grow lights they will last longer - up to two years. When the ends of the bulbs darken, their useful life is over. Don't wait for them to burn out. Dust and yellowish film tend to accumulate on the bulbs and fixtures of fluorescent lights. If you dust the bulbs and clean the reflector, it will ensure that your plants receive all the light produced by the bulbs.

How far away from the bulbs should I place my plants?

Standard plants should be positioned with their tops 8 inches below the bulbs. Miniatures require more light and should be placed nearer to the bulbs.

How long should I leave the lights on?

Twelve hours is enough most of the time. Some people slowly increase the number of hours of light their plants receive (at the rate of one hour per week) in the last few weeks before the show. Various sources recommend 14, 15, 16, or even 18 hours of light to force African violets to abundant bloom. More than 18 hours is counterproductive. Like animals, plants appear to need a certain amount of rest in order to thrive. Temperature also has an effect on the amount of light required. Plants in a cool basement will need less light than those in a warm second-floor guest room. An automatic timer is practically a necessity in order to provide the kind of cultural consistency required for good, even growth and abundant bloom.

*Reprinted from publication of the
The Transvaal AVS, South Africa*



What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Leaves are the Barometer



When plants are healthy and in peak condition after a successful period of blossoming and growth, the leaves look shiny and clean. However, when you have been over-enthusiastic in fertilization or when some other cultivation problem has arisen, the leaves of your plant are usually the first to show that something is amiss.

To be able to determine what is wrong with the foliage of your plant, carefully check through this reference table with your plant beside you; the problem you have should be listed here. Act immediately.

SYMPTOM	CONDITION	SOLUTION
Dry, shrivelled leaves.	Heat too high. Humidity too low.	Move to a cooler place. Mist daily. Use pebbles in trays of water. Stand plants ON TOP OF PEBBLES, NOT IN THE WATER.
Leaf drop or blossom drop.	Overwatering. Cold water or drafts. Sensitive to gas.	Cut back on water, use warm water, move from draft, check for gas leak.
Old leaves yellowing.	Nitrogen starved.	Natural maturing. Use more nitrogen in fertilizing.
New leaves yellowing except for leaf veins.	Insufficient iron in your mix.	Give plants a dose of iron chelate.
Leaves curl down around pot.	Too much light.	Move plant away from strong light to where it is less intense. Surface on which plant stands may be too bright and reflects light.
Tight, brittle center leaves.	Too much fertilizer.	Go easy on fertilizer. Water with 1 tablespoon of dolomite lime per 5 liters of water for next 2 weeks.
Leaf spotting. White or yellow spots.	Water drops on leaves, or leaves have been exposed to sunlight.	Avoid at all costs.
No blossoms.	Insufficient light. Incorrect fertilizing.	Increase light. Often too much nitrogen, give more phosphorus and potash.
Blooming is poor, few flowers and buds fall off.	Temperatures too high, especially at night. Light poor. Water too little. Humidity too low.	Correct one at a time, checking to see which changes the situation.
Stems, leaves limp, mushy, glassy and rotten.	Overwatering.	Mix holding too much water. Repot and go easy on watering.
Weak growth. New growth is light green and yellowish.	Too little light. Plant pot-bound. Plant receiving insufficient food. Soil pH too acid (too low).	Move to a brighter place and repot into fresh soil and larger pot. Feed with a complete fertilizer. Raise soil pH by adding lime or repot in soil with a higher pH - 6.5 to 6.8.

of your Plant's Condition



SYMPTOM	CONDITION	SOLUTION
Leggy plant growth. Pale leaves.	Insufficient light. Temperature too high. Humidity too low.	Move plant into stronger light, water with fertilizer and mist daily.
Stunted growth. Small leaves that twist.	Too little regular watering over long periods. Drainage poor. Humidity low.	Correct all these symptoms, repot, mist plant regularly.
Sooty black mold.	Too much water. Poor air circulation. Overcrowding.	Cut down on watering. Give plants more space, clean up.
Collapse of your plant.	Root rot from overwatering. Excessive cold or heat.	Re-root the crown. Move plant to better locality, a more moderate temperature.
	Root shock after repotting.	Mist plant daily.
	Fertilizer build-up.	Flush out, repot.
	Dehydration.	Mist plant, especially if weather very hot.
Whitish marks on leaves which spoil appearance.	Drops of water on leaves.	Remove water drops from leaves after watering, using your sponge.
	Water is too cold.	Use tepid water.
Brown leaf edges, tips go brown.	Low humidity. Soil too dry or too wet, poor air circulation.	Mist daily, watch. Fresh air must be in plant area.
	Excessively high nitrogen on pot rim is harming plant.	Cut off bad leaves. Flush salts out with lots of warm water. Use dolomite lime twice per month.
Leaf drop. General yellowing or dropping of leaves.	Sudden drop in temperature, a chill. Poor drainage.	Water temperature. Check drainage, repot.
Leaves with holes in them.	A chewing insect.	Find it, spray top and bottom of leaves.
Leaf variegation disappearing.	Too much nitrogen. Hot weather, temperatures too high.	Fertilize with less nitrogen until weather is cooler.

Reprinted with permission from
Growing African Violets in Southern Africa, by Joan Halford

Showcase

Apache Freedom

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

J.C. Munk

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Calypso Beat

Best in Class

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Margie Geissler

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Aca's Pink Pet

*Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams***

AVS of Canada

1999 National Show

*Hybridized by: **J. Brownlie***

Miniature

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***



Saintpaulia velutina

Best Species

1999 National Show

*Exhibited by: **Linda Golubski***

*Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky***

ACQUAINTANCE WITH AFRICAN VIOLET TERMINOLOGY

by Anne Tinari • Huntingdon Valley, PA

People who grow African violets find a great rapport with them by becoming familiar with the terminology one uses in referring to aspects of the botany and familiar terms used in growing and grooming America's favorite houseplant.

The African violet is a plant native to Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa. It is a member of the Gesneriad family belonging to the genus *Saintpaulia*, named for the German scientist who discovered it, Baron Von St. Paul.

The botany of the African violet consists of the following parts that are responsible for reproduction.

It is a bisexual flower; each flower contains both male and female organs.

ANTHER: The small sac carried on a thread emerging from the center of each flower. The anther splits to release pollen grains containing the male elements of the plant.

CALYX: The cup-like base of a blossom. This external part is usually green in contrast to the inner showy portion composed of colored petals. It is the outer circle of the floral envelope.

PEDICEL: The stem that supports the buds or blossoms in a bloom cluster.

PEDUNCLE: Found near the crown of the plant, the peduncles develop bearing flower clusters. It is the stalk that supports a solitary flower or a cluster.

PETAL: A single African violet has five petals.

PETIOLE: A stem attached to the leaf.

PISTIL: Is the seed bearing female portion of the flowers and consists of ovaries, style and stigma.

POLLEN: The fertile, usually yellow dust, released from the anther.

SEPAL: One of the separate parts of a calyx.

STAMENS: The anther and the filament contained in the male fertilizing cells.

STIGMA: The uppermost top of the pistil, which receives and holds the pollen grains.

STYLE: Part of the female portion of the flower, which protrudes through the center of the flower.

Not only are African violets attractive for their flowers but are enhanced by the many types of foliage that exist. A simple explanation of the leaf types is as follows:

The midrib of a leaf is the central vein of the leaf, which appears as a ridge-like extension of the petiole and leaf stem.

CORDATE LEAF: Roughly heart-shaped leaf, notched at the base.

CRENATE LEAF: Leaf margin marked by rounded scallops.

DENTATE LEAF: Leaf has a toothed margin.

ENTIRE LEAF: A smooth edged leaf with grooves, scallops or indentations of any kind.

GIRL-TYPE LEAF: Deeply scalloped leaves usually rounded or heart-shape with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf. Markings can extend to leaf blades and edges of the leaf.

LONGIFOLIA or **SPIDER:** Is a narrow, pointed strap-like leaf with plain or wavy foliage.

MOSAIC VARIEGATED LEAF: Variegation covers the entire leaf in a mosaic pattern such as the popular **LILLIAN JARRETT** variety.

OBTUSE LEAF: Is blunt rather than sharply pointed.

OVATE LEAF: Egg-shaped leaves attached to their stems at the broad end.

PLAIN or **TAILORED LEAF:** Texture and form is sometimes known as standard or "boy-type" foliage.

RHOMBIC-OVATE: An oval leaf form widened through the center.

RUFFLED LEAF: Has a serrated or ragged edge.

SERRATED LEAF: Notched or toothed on a saw-like edge.

SPOONED or **CUPPED:** Leaves are concave with high edges like a spoon.

SUPREME LEAF: Thick, hairy and quilted with strong pencil-like petioles.

VARIEGATED LEAF: Any foliage that has a combination of two or more of the following colors, white or light green, rose, red, wine, copper-pink, cream, chartreuse and dark green.

BLOSSOM TYPES: The color, shapes and forms of African violet blossoms are many.

Some of the most important registered with the AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC are as follows:

BELL: A single bell-shaped blossom, usually found on miniature and semiminature types.

CHIMERA or **PINWHEEL:** Blossoms with stripes that radiate from the center.

DOUBLE: Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.

EDGED: Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color. Many times known as Geneva edged, often lobes of blossoms are edged in white.

FANTASY: Blossoms are splotched, streaked or rayed with contrasting color or even deeper shades of the same color.

FRINGED: Blossoms have heavily serrated or fringed outer lobes.

MULTICOLOR: Blossoms with two or more colors.

SEMIDOUBLE: Blossoms that possess more than standard five lobes such as blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals.

SINGLE: Blossoms have five lobes, the two upper lobes are smaller than the three lower ones and have one pair of stamens.

STAR: Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another and can be single or double. Double stars have an extra layer of petals but maintain the star form.

TWO-TONE: Blossoms have two or more shades of color.

WASP: Blossoms are single and each lobe is narrow, blossoms look wasp-like.

A **GLOSSARY** of terms pertaining to African violets.

ACID SOIL: Any soil that has a pH of less than 7.0. African violets are known to thrive well in a pH of about 6.4 to 6.7, slightly acid.

AKALINE SOIL: Soil that has a pH of greater than 7.0.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT: Light other than that provided by the sun.

CAPILLARY ACTION: The movement of water upward in a plant through the potting mixture, or a wick.

CHLOROPHYLL: The green pigment found in the chloroplasts; important in the absorption of light for use in the process of photosynthesis

CHROMOSOME: Microscopic, rod-like structure composed of individual units (genes) which pass on the plant's characteristics from generation to generation.

CULTIVARS: Plants developed by man through hybridization or by a mutation occurring in a collection of plants.

CUTTINGS: Leaf broken from a parent plant for the purpose of obtaining additional plants of identical type.

DISBUDDING: Removal of the flower buds or bud stems in order to hold back the blossoms opening for a later date.

DIVISION: The cutting or gently pulling apart of a plant having two or more crowns.

FERTILIZER: Any material added to the potting mixture or sprayed onto a plant that contains one or more of the sixteen essential plant food elements.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT: Fluorescent light lamps especially manufactured to emit light which is a close substitute for sunlight.

GERMINATE: The beginning growth of a seed.

HUMIDITY: The ratio of water vapor held in the air, beneficial to plant growth.

HUMUS: Partially decomposed or organic materials found in soil. It adds nutrients improving soil and retains moisture to provide a better environment for the growth of plant roots.

HYBRIDIZATION: Using the pollen from one African violet and transferring it to the stigma of another plant to obtain seed.

LEACH: The movement of water through the potting mixture dissolving nutrients and other chemicals to wash them out of the bottom of the potting mixture.

MAJOR NUTRIENTS: Six major plant food elements - nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulfur, calcium and magnesium - needed for plant growth and development.

MUTANT OR SPORT: Plants that have developed new features not seen in the parent plant can occur naturally or be chemically induced.

NECKY PLANT: A plant that has lost leaves from the lower portion of the plant exposing the main stalk above the potting mixture.

PASTEURIZATION: Purification process used to rid potting mixture of unwanted pests such as insects, diseases and nematodes in the soil.

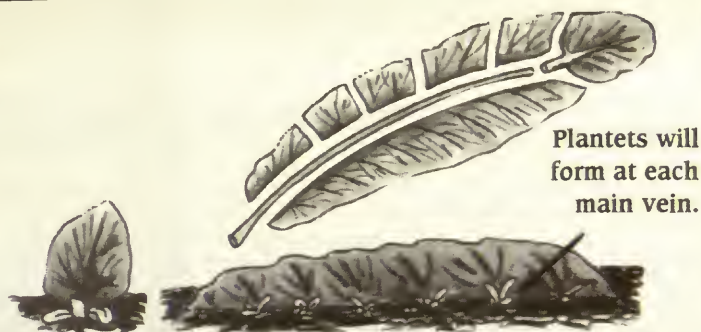
PHOTOSYNTHESIS: The production of food in plants through a complex chemical reaction involving light, water and carbon dioxide.

PROGENY: The offspring of any type of cross.

PROPAGATION: Producing new plants either by sexual reproduction (seeds) or by asexual reproduction (vegetatively) from leaf cuttings, division, separation or tissue culture.

Propagating Streptocarpus leaves

With the large size of most strep leaves, you need to do a little surgery with your Xacto knife. Cut the large midrib right out, except at the leaf tip, where you can create a fake stem. You can plant the leaf halves or cut them into smaller wedges. Bury the cut edge 1/4" into moist vermiculite or soil-less mix. Use a clear plastic cover for humidity.



Reprinted from "An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and their Relatives"

Showcase

Marion's Enchanted Trail

Best Trailer

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature Trailer



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Irish Dimples

Exhibited by: Emma Bygott

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

African Violet



Saintpaulia grotei

1999 Supplement Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 1999 supplement to the ninth edition of the *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (AVML, formerly MVL). The supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 1999 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise and accurate tool for classifying, judging and exhibiting African violets.

The "universal" IBM and MAC AVML database, and the "First Class" version for Windows only, are available on 3.5-inch floppy disks for your computer at \$12.50, and \$5.00 for updates as available. Contact the Beaumont office for current dates and computer details.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's descriptions of cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713, or e-mail to lombard@oro.net.

The 1999 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, African Violet Master List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine Volume 52 No. 6 November/December 1999

† designates change

- Aca's Coral Lagoon (8794) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble coral ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, pebbled, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- Aca's Flying Free (8757) 10/27/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink sticktite star. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- Aca's Purple Explosion (8795) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble dark blue large ruffled star/purple overlay. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- Aca's Purple Peace (8796) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble purple two-tone ruffled star. Dark green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**
- Aca's Red Charmer (8797) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble red ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**
- Aca's Red Face (8798) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red large star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Large**
- Aca's Ronnie Redhead (8799) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble plum-red large star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- Aca's Summer Parfait (8800) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink and white frilled pansy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- †Apache Creation (8803) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble rose ruffled star/raspberry rays, shading. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- †Apache Delight (8804) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble lavender frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain/red back. **Standard**
- Apache Friendship (8805) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble-double medium pink ruffled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**
- Apache Redcoats (8806) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble red-mauve frilled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- Aunt Marie (K. Stork) Single-semidouble orchid-rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- B-man's Auola (8828) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium blue star. Medium green, plain, spooned. **Standard**
- B-man's Gracie (8829) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- B-man's Melila (8830) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- B-man's Moncibello (8831) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single mauve ruffled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** dark green and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**
- B-man's Palma (8832) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Double medium pink frilled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**
- Baby's Breath (T. Davis) Single white ruffled star/light pink patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Baker's Anna-belle (8784) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single magenta sticktite/variable white top petals. Dark green. **Standard**
- Baker's Carrie (8785) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet ruffled/variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- Baker's Louise (8786) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double pink. Light green, plain, pointed/red back. **Standard**
- Baker's Lynn (8787) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light rose sticktite ruffled pansy/darker eye. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

Baker's Nancy	(8788) 02/27/99	(P. Davidson) Double magenta star. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Ruth	(8789) 02/27/99	(P. Davidson) Single dark purple sticktite pansy/variable white. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. Standard
Baker's Sarah	(8790) 02/27/99	(P. Davidson) Single light mauve sticktite star/darker edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Stacey	(8791) 02/27/99	(P. Davidson) Double violet. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Tatyana	(8792) 02/27/99	(P. Davidson) Semidouble light pink/darker eye. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Beethoven		(Volkman) Semidouble red star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, round. Standard
Brahms		(Volkman) Single red large star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Bright Note		(Volkman) Semidouble dark red large star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Carousel Pony		(S. Sorano) Single chimera white bell/dark blue stripe. Variegated medium green and white. Miniature trailer
†Cen-Tex Rose		(B. Foster) Double pink. Dark green. Standard
Charisma		(K. Stork) Semidouble white frilled pansy/raspberry sparkle edge. Light green, quilted, scalloped. Standard
Cherry Bomb		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double chimera light pink fluted star/fuchsia stripe, red fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream. Standard
Cherub Cheeks	(8780) 01/04/99	(J. Donaho) Single white frilled star/variable light pink sparkle overlay. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. Standard
Chinook Wind		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble red-coral pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy. Standard
Chopin		(Volkman) Single white large sticktite ruffled star. Medium green, round, quilted. Standard
Clarine		(Volkman) Single rose-red sticktite star. Dark green, round. Standard
Colette	(8781) 02/23/99	(N. Price) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. Standard
†Cool Blue	(8758) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Semidouble light blue. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature
Cool Touch		(S. Sorano) Single chimera white frilled star/light blue stripe, eye. Medium green, plain. Standard
†Dancing Eyes	(8759) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/dark rose eye. Variegated green and white, plain. Semiminiature
Dancing Spirit		(Volkman) Single red sticktite star/white wavy edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Darlin' Darlene		(T. Davis) Single white sticktite star/fuchsia-pink patches. Dark green, plain. Standard
David Alan		(D. Harrington) Single-semidouble red/white ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Standard
Deadly Sting		(S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue-purple ruffled pansy/dark green tips, edge. Variegated medium green, white and cream. Standard
Dignitaire		(D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue large star. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Dream Weaver		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled star/blue fantasy, pink eye and edge. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Dreamtime	(8823) 07/09/99	(M. Taylor) Semidouble red star/pink fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Emergency		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble red pansy/white fluted edge. Dark green, wavy/red back. Large
Eye Shadow	(8779) 01/04/99	(Condit/D. Harris) Semidouble lavender frilled/purple eye, tips. Crown variegated green and cream, ovate, quilted, wavy. Standard
Feather Dance		(Volkman) Single medium pink large ruffled sticktite star. Dark green, plain. Standard
First Blush		(Volkman) Single pink sticktite star/white edge. Dark green. Standard

- †Floozie (8773) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid pink pansy/thin raspberry sparkled edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**
- Flying North (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink/white edge. **Variegated** dark green and pink, heart-shaped, glossy, wavy. **Standard**
- Foster Trail (8760) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**
- Frangine (D. Croteau) Semidouble pink star/raspberry edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Frozen In Time (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite cupped green and white fantasy, darker green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white. **Standard**
- Funambule (D. Croteau) Semidouble dark blue pansy/white and pink fantasy. **Crown variegated** dark green and pink, plain. **Standard**
- Gazou (8747) 08/10/98 (F. Pilon) Semidouble-double cream/light pink and beige-tipped top petals; thin white, variable green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, serrated. **Standard trailer**
- Georgia Starburst (T. Davis) Single fuchsia sticktite star/wide white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Georgia Sunset (T. Davis) Single light coral-pink sticktite star/white eye. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- Gina Marie (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite fluted star/blue-purple tips. Medium green. **Standard**
- †Gleeful Elf (8761) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. **Miniature**
- Gran's Roger (8822) 07/08/99 (J. Regner) Semidouble lavender/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- Hal's Bonnie Blue (T. Davis) Single blue two-tone sticktite pansy/whitish top petals. Dark green, pointed. **Standard**
- Happy Feet (S. Sorano) Double lavender-pink large fluted star/blue and red fantasy. Dark green. **Standard**
- Heaven's a-Calling (T. Davis) Single white sticktite star/rose-pink overlay, raspberry sparkle edge. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- Heirloom Jewelry (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark purple-red pansy. Dark green, plain. **Small standard**
- †Honey Berry (8762) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. **Variegated** green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**
- †Honey Blue Angel (8827) 07/12/99 (Goodsell/Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Medium green girl foliage. **Miniature**
- Ice Storm (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/blue eye, green edge. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Iceberg (S. Sorano) Semidouble white/wide blue ruffled edge. Medium green. **Standard**
- Impostor (8774) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double plum-wine star/white edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain. **Standard**
- †Indian Trail (4026) 09/04/80 (T. Khoe) Single fuchsia-red. Plain, quilted, pebbled. **Miniature trailer**
- Julie Kay (S. Sorano) Double pink pansy. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, ruffled. **Standard**
- Karl's Illusion (8826) 07/09/99 (K. Dornbusch) Semidouble pink large frilled star/darker eye. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Ken (8763) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, wavy. **Miniature**
- Kev's Meteor Shower (8756) 10/22/98 (K. Degner) Semidouble dark purple large ruffled star/coral fantasy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- King David (8782) 02/23/99 (D. Thompson) Semidouble chimera blue frilled star/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- Laini (8748) 08/10/98 (F. Pilon) Double pink large/white-marked lower petals. **Variegated** medium green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. **Standard trailer**
- Liszt (Volkman) Double medium pink large star/white edge. Dark green, round. **Standard**
- Little Pushover (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble fuchsia star. Dark green. **Semiminiature**

Louiman Sequo	(8749) 08/10/98	(F. Pilon) Semidouble-double blue-purple ruffled. Medium green, quilted, serrated. Standard
Lucille Woolever		(D. Harrington) Double pink/white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Standard
Lyon's Bunny Hop		(S. Sorano) Semidouble ivory star/blue fantasy, rose tips. Dark green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Early Spring		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white large star/variable blue eye, edge. Variegated medium green and white. Standard
Lyon's Kismet		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light orchid ruffled pansy/dark green-tipped top petals. Variegated dark green and white, wavy. Large
Lyon's Little Sweetheart		(S. Sorano) Double blue star/white edge. Medium green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Monique		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera white, ivory and cream/light blue shaded stripe. Medium green. Standard
Lyon's Shooting Stars		(S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue cupped star/white edge. Dark green, pebbled. Semiminiature
Lyon's Wild Card		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/orchid stripe. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Mac's Halcyon's Horizon	(8752) 08/31/98	(G. McDonald) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted. Semiminiature
Mac's Overly Ostentatious	(8753) 08/31/98	(G. McDonald) Double white/pink and blue fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniature
Mac's Virtually Velvet	(8754) 08/31/98	(G. McDonald) Semidouble coral red/blue overlay. Variegated green, pink and white, ovate, serrated. Semiminiature
Madam President	(8801) 04/17/99	(C. Cornibe) Single-semidouble-double light lavender two-tone frilled pansy/variable darker tips, green and-or maroon-purple edge. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard
Mama Mia	(8802) 04/17/99	(C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double pink frilled pansy/variable purple band; fuchsia-purple overlay, white edge. Variegated green and white. Semiminiature
Meghan's Bay		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale blue star. Medium green. Standard
†Miss Santa Cruz	(8729) 06/03/98	(C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white and-or green edge, variable darker tips. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard
Missing You		(D. Croteau) Semidouble purple star/raspberry edge. Variegated green and pink, plain, quilted. Standard
Misty Moonbeam		(S. Sorano) Semidouble dark pink fluted star/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, wavy. Standard
Mosaique		(D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue large star/pink fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted. Large
Mozart		(Volkmann) Semidouble red ruffled star. Dark green, round, quilted. Standard
My Smokey Trail	(8764) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double medium blue. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature trailer
Neptune's Jewels		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double chimera white large star/dark blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, plain. Standard
Northern Seduction		(D. Croteau) Semidouble red large star/darker veins. Variegated dark green and pink. Standard
Number One	(8751) 08/14/98	(A. Jantzen/G. Crouch) Semidouble violet-blue. Medium green, plain, quilted. Large
Opera Doc	(8793) 03/08/99	(S. McGaha) Double blush pink/variable green tips. Dark green, plain, pointed. Miniature trailer
†Optimara® Little Azurite	(7915) 07/06/93	(Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/thin white edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. Miniature
Orchard's Night Light	(8814) 06/08/99	(R. Wilson) Single white star/pink blush. Dark green, plain, quilted, pebbled. Semiminiature
Penny Lover		(S. Sorano) Semidouble white large ruffled pansy/fuchsia-pink eye, edge. Variegated medium green and white. Standard
†Peppy Blue	(8765) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
†Perk Up		(L. Lyon) Single-semidouble fuchsia. Plain. Semiminiature trailer

†Petite Ruby	(8766) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniature
Pink Symphony		(S. Sorano) Semidouble pale pink large star/dark pink-tinged edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
†Planet Kid	(8767) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double pale blue/white edge. Light green, ruffled. Miniature
Postmark		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/light purple eye, edge. Light-medium green, quilted. Standard
Prince Of Blues	(8783) 02/23/99	(C. Thompson) Double white ruffled star/variable blue center, rays; green edge. Medium green, pointed, wavy. Standard
Queen Anne	(8821) 06/26/99	(N. Price) Semidouble purple ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Radiant Glow		(T. Davis) Single burgundy ruffled star/white eye, edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Ray Of Hope		(S. Sorano) Single chimera white sticktite frilled pansy/pink stripe. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Rebel's Astro Spinner		(R. Bann) Single-semidouble chimera pink large fluted star/wine stripe, purple fantasy, wide white edge. Medium green, cupped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Barbara		(R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink two-tone pansy/ruffled top petals, rose tips. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Beauty		(R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/wide red sparkle edge. Variegated dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Binky		(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy/red ruffled edge. Variegated dark green and rose-beige, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Blaze Spinner	(8815) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Semidouble chimera white pansy/red stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Charmin' Pink		(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/rose shading. Variegated medium green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated. Large
Rebel's Cherie		(R. Bann) Double pink two-tone large star/red eye. Variegated dark green and rose-cream, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. Standard
Rebel's Cranberry Creme	(8816) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Semidouble red-violet large pansy/darker markings, white fluted edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Rebel's Cucumber Kool		(R. Bann) Semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy/purple frilled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Faith	(8817) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble red pansy/darker eye, variable white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Hyacinth		(R. Bann) Semidouble purple large fluted star. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Maria		(R. Bann) Semidouble-double peach-pink two-tone ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Midnight Sky	(8818) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy. Variegated dark green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
†Rebel's Purple Heath	(8819) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Semidouble purple large ruffled star. Variegated medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. Large
Rebel's Rhubarb Frost		(R. Bann) Semidouble pink pansy/white-green ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, spooned, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Valiant	(8820) 06/14/99	(R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue star/white ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. Large
Red Sparky		(Volkmann) Semidouble red-violet ruffled. Dark green, plain. Standard
Red Summit		(S. Sorano) Double fuchsia fluted pansy/wide white edge. Dark green. Standard
Rivale		(D. Croteau) Semidouble light pink star/raspberry edge. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Rob's Argyle Socks	(8808) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Double pink star/blue fantasy. Crown variegated green, pink, beige and tan/red back. Semiminiature

Rob's Berry Shake	(8809) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Double light pink/fuchsia-pink fantasy. Black-green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Little Pueblo	(8810) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Semidouble coral large star. Dark green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Loose Goose	(8811) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Single-semidouble white sticktite large frilled star. Black-green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Miss Sniffles	(8812) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Semidouble-double white pansy/irregular red-marked edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy. Semiminiature
Rob's Mister Sneezy	(8813) 05/31/99	(R. Robinson) Semidouble-double light to medium burgundy-red. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. Semiminiature
Robert Mayer		(D. Croteau) Semidouble pink large star/raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. Large
Rodeo Pioneer	(8807) 04/24/99	(J. Munk) Semidouble red-purple ruffled star. Dark green, plain, pointed/red back. Standard
Roll Along Blue		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue star. Medium green. Semiminiature trailer
Roll Along Pink		(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink/red-lavender overlay. Medium green. Semiminiature trailer
Sacajawea		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-coral large fluted star. Medium green. Standard
Sandy Trail	(8768) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Single fuchsia sticktite pansy/white tips. Medium green, plain. Miniature trailer
Sharon's Way	(8824) 07/09/99	(M. Taylor) Single-semidouble peach-pink frilled pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Shy Romance		(Volkman) Single red sticktite star/wide white ruffled edge. Medium green. Standard
†Silent Prayer	(8775) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender large star/darker frilled edge. Medium green, plain. Large
Simply Wonderful		(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pale lavender star/dark purple edge. Medium green, plain. Large
Smoky Joe		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble smoky plum two-tone pansy/darker top petals. Dark green. Large
Smoldering Pink		(S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink star/pink and fuchsia shaded tips, white edge. Dark green. Semiminiature
†Smooch Me	(8776) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-pink pansy/variable red eye. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated. Standard
Solitaire		(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/purple stripe. Dark green. Standard
Sonoma Bingo		(B. Borck) Double light blue two-tone star/white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, plain/red back. Standard
Sonoma Blue Sliver		(B. Borck) Semidouble lavender-blue star/white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, plain/red back. Standard
Sonoma Look Twice		(B. Borck) Semidouble light lavender-blue large star/darker rays, white fantasy, rose overlay. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Pacific Coast		(B. Borck) Semidouble-double medium blue. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Pale Face		(B. Borck) Semidouble white star/variable pink blush. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Ringo		(B. Borck) Semidouble medium pink large star/variable white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sorcerer	(8825) 07/09/99	(M. Taylor) Single-semidouble dark purple frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated. Standard
Special Touch		(Volkman) Single red sticktite large star/white edge. Dark green. Standard
Spectacular Blue		(S. Sorano) Double bright blue large star. Medium green. Large
Spindletop	(8769) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white sticktite pansy/fuchsia center. Dark green, plain. Standard

Spring Flower	.....	(Volkman) Double medium pink star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Stage-struck	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star. Dark green. Standard
Star Eclipse	.....	(T. Davis) Single medium blue fluted star/white eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Steven Dennis	.....	(D. Harrington) Semidouble-double red. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Strauss	.....	(Volkman) Single dark blue sticktite ruffled star. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Summer Stars	.....	(P. Harris) Single pink large star/purple fantasy. Medium green, pointed, serrated. Semiminiature trailer
Susie Sunshine	.....	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white wavy star/dark yellow markings, hot pink edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Sweet Sam	.....	(P. Harris) Semidouble pink two-tone. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Taffy Lilac	.....	(J. Swift) Semidouble white star/lavender markings, lighter lavender edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Taffy Snow	.....	(J. Swift) Double white star. Medium green, plain. Standard
†Teen Thunder	 (8770) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double blue/white edge. Medium green, quilted. Semiminiature
†Texas Space Dust	 (8771) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Semidouble light pink pansy. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniature
The Madam	 (8755) 09/30/98	(P. Harris) Single-semidouble pale pink bell/raspberry-rose tips. Medium-dark green, quilted. Standard trailer
Ti-Mine	 (8750) 08/10/98	(F. Pilon) Single pink star. Variegated black-green, white and pink, glossy, serrated Standard trailer
Toy Kaleidoscope	.....	(P. Harris) Single lavender pansy/white stripe, lavender fantasy, edge. Variegated green and white. Semiminiature trailer
Up In Flames	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark red pansy/purple tinge. Medium green, pointed. Standard
Vallarta Cielo Azul	.....	(G. Beck) Single dark blue. Dark green/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Vallarta Oceano Bonito	.....	(G. Beck) Single white and light purple. Light green. Semiminiature trailer
Vallarta Palapa	.....	(G. Beck) Single medium pink. Dark green, quilted, serrated. Semiminiature trailer
†Velvet Brocade	 (8777) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple star/white edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
†Verdict	 (8778) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy. Medium-dark green, quilted, glossy, wavy. Standard
Violets Aglow	.....	(T. Davis) Single white pansy/purple-red patches, white edge. Dark green. Standard
Volkman's Cardinal	.....	(Volkman) Double purple-red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Handel	.....	(Volkman) Semidouble medium red/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Radiant Glow	.....	(Volkman) Semidouble light rose large ruffled star. Medium green. Standard
Volkman's Carol	.....	(Volkman) Semidouble dark rose large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkman's Susie	.....	(Volkman) Semidouble dark pink star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkman's White Dawn	.....	(Volkman) Semidouble white ruffled. Medium green, plain. Standard
Wichita Connection	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white frilled/pink eye, variable green tints and fuchsia sparkle. Light green. Standard
Wild Red	.....	(D. Harrington) Double red. Medium-dark green, quilted. Large
†Wishful Teen	 (8772) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double bright pink. Variegated dark green and white, plain. Miniature



***Sinningia
Cardinalis
'Redcoat'
Hybrid***

Exhibited by: Dale Martens

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Pink Dove

Best in Class

AVS of Canada

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Beverly Williams

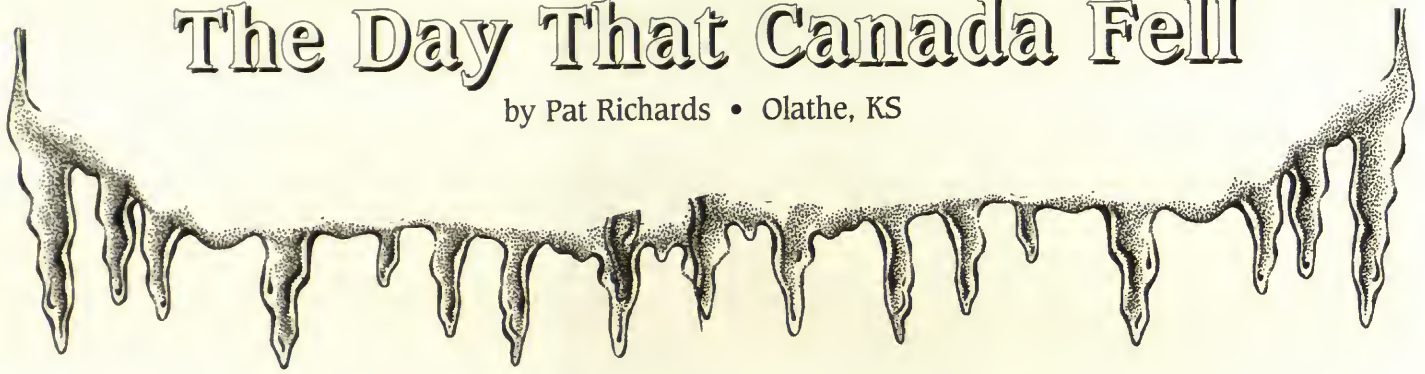
Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

The Day That Canada Fell

by Pat Richards • Olathe, KS



For forty-six years, the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City had held a February show. Once, stalwart club members recalled holding the show in a blizzard. Once, they recalled bringing their plants in 15 degree weather. But, they never recalled anything like 1996's show, better known as, The Day That Canada Fell.

Monday before the show, forecasters were calling for freezing rain on Wednesday night and blizzard-like conditions on Thursday. In a moment of brilliance, the show chairman determined show set-up could occur Wednesday before the calamity started, avoiding sure disaster. The set-up crew was summoned and faithfully heeded the call for help. Set-up went without incident.

The Thursday snows went south, literally, to Oklahoma. But alas, forecasters and Mother Nature had something else up their sleeves: Canada was sagging! High pressure had held a huge bulge of some of the coldest, most bone chilling air up in Canada. Local meteorologists said this enormous air mass had to sag sometime, and that "sometime" was in the wee hours of Friday morning. By the time club members would be bringing their plants for entries, the temperature outside would be 10 to 15 below. "Oh, that's all," you say.

But wait, Ma Nature and those weathermen weren't through yet. "Sagging such as this," the weathermen said, "is accompanied by high winds", so our "feels like" temperature was downsized to 40 to 50 below!

Now, we all love our violets, and we all love to show off our violets, and we all love to buy violets. But who in their right mind would expose themselves and/or their violets to this kind of abuse?

The show chairman and the club president were both relative newcomers to the club. They were under heavy pressure from their significant others (one of whom decided members of the club were "crazy" and meant it!) to call the whole thing off. But for a telephone glitch (probably because of the cold), the deed would have been done. Instead, both went to bed, dreaming of failure, of being crazy, and of sagging Canada. They both underestimated the dedication, loyalty and downright stubbornness of club members.

Dawn came. Frigid, colder than cold, off the celsius scale. Amidst this, plants were placed lovingly into warmed cars with

heaters blasting. Plants that had been double boxed for double insulation. Plants that could become sacrificial lambs for the sake of following through with our duty to the public and to selves. Members brought their best plants.

And then, an amazing thing happened. Now, the meteorologists would disagree, but I believe Ma Nature looked lovingly upon such individuals and smiled. She somehow forgot the wind. She forgot the snow. She learned it is human nature to respond to challenge with even greater determination.

The judges came. Three drove up from Wichita (bless their violet-lovin' souls), three from Lawrence, one of whom was undeterred despite frozen water pipes in her home, and three local judges. These courageous individuals braved the weather for the love of violets.

They judged a show of 164 horticulture entries and 13 designs. They awarded Best in Show to near perfect 'Maverick's Tight Jeans' grown by Gene Loveland. But if you ask me, everyone who entered a plant on The Day That Canada Fell was a winner.

Aftermath: We all know the show itself is only one aspect of show weekend. Sales must be made in order to help pay the costs of the show. Temperatures on Saturday morning opened at 15 below, and, despite the gloom and doom predicted by some, "crazy" members of the public showed up, not only to view the show but especially to buy violets! We had a slow and steady stream of regulars all day long! It was truly amazing! Sunday saw a tropical paradise when the low only got to 2 below, and even more regulars came out that day. Usually, we will do three-quarters of our business on Saturday. This year sales on Saturday and Sunday were almost even and we hardly saw a drop in the total!

Most important though, the club, having to overcome illness, operations, infirmities and family tragedies, in addition to Mother Nature's insensitivity, still managed to be awarded AVSA's blue rosette for their unfailing efforts.

Is there something to be learned from all this? Indeed! While violet lovers may be crazy, they are dedicated, courageous and loyal, whether they are club members or the violet growing public. Furthermore, never underestimate them, for similar to Canadian Mounties, "Violet lovers always hold their show!"

A QUICK AND EASY PLANT STAND

by Mary Ann Switzer • Chesterfield, MO

Several years ago some of my friends started growing *Streptocarpus* and I decided I wanted to try my hand at it, too. But my plant stands were already full of African violets and I didn't want to part with any of them. What was I to do? The only logical conclusion was to get another plant stand. But I was busy and didn't want to take the time to build one of wood.

While cruising the hardware store I found my solution: steel shelving.

I bought a four-shelf unit that resembles a baker's rack for about \$100, on sale. It stands 74" high and the shelves are 48" by 18". It is a sturdy unit, the manufacturer boasts that each shelf will hold up to 500 pounds. Easy, no tool assembly is advertised. Actually a hammer and a scrap block of wood is needed. And, while you could assemble it by yourself, it is much better to have a helper. It goes together in about a half an hour or less. You decide the distance between shelves.

I bought a black unit, but the units are also available in chrome or white. These are nice looking units that don't need to be relegated to the basement. They would look good in a kitchen or den. You can also buy shelves individually. So you could add a shelf to the unit. My shelves were spaced far apart because I wanted to grow tall *Streptocarpus* with the pots on reservoirs. For growing African violets you could add a shelf, and have four lighted shelves instead of three.

I hung shoplight fixtures from the wire-rack shelves using



"S" hooks and chains. Lots of light falls through to the shelf below since the shelves are wire racks. I soon found that I was spilling when watering and the water was falling on the light fixture below. Concluding that this was not good, I bought lightweight clear plastic sheeting at the fabric store and cut it to fit the shelves. Now the light passes through, but spilled water doesn't.

I had read that *Streptocarpus* need more light than African violets, so I bought a roll of a product called "Lumen Booster Mylar" and hung it on the wall behind the plant stand. This Mylar, which is referred to as "mirror on a roll" is 4 feet

wide and 1 mil thick. I purchased it at a garden center. I really like the mirror effect. It makes it look like you have twice as many plants. After using the Mylar behind the *Streptocarpus* for a year, I decided that the African violets looked sad against the concrete basement wall. So they got Mylar too! My basement violet room looks very cheerful now. As always, it is important to rotate your plants once a week to achieve good symmetry.

In the photo you will notice that I grow my *Streptocarpus* on reservoirs using the wick watering method. I know that some experts recommend watering from the top. But since I travel frequently, wick watering is best for me. It is important that your plants fit your lifestyle.

In conclusion, I recommend that you give these shelves a try if you want an easy to assemble unit that is nice looking.

Showcase

Rob's Zero Gravity

Exhibited by: Emma Bygott

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

B-Man's Melila

Best in Show

AVS of Canada

1999 National Show

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Bruno Curcuruto

Large



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"Spindletop"

Best in Class

1999 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Bill Foster***



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"Texas Heritage"

Best in Class

1999 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited by: **Phyllis Enos***

Trailers - My Favorite African Violets

by Nancy Manozzi

Since the trailer variety is my favorite African violet, I thought I would share some of the information I've acquired along the way. I think they're easier to grow since they do better in natural light versus artificial light. Also, the symmetry is important, but not as much as in a standard variety, and it is much easier to maintain. If you break a leaf or have a leaf that is damaged, you can remove it without spoiling the appearance of the entire plant.

Anne and Frank Tinari were the first hybridizers of the trailing African violet, using the species *Saintpaulia grotei* and pollen from a standard violet. *S. grotei's* unusual feature was its ability to branch and cascade over the pot's rim. This first cross produced hundreds of scraggly stems and dull blue flowers. Luckily, one seedling they called 'Wild Girl' showed some promise and they placed its pollen on *S. grotei* flowers.

By 1954, a few years later, the Tinari's had produced four attractive hybrids, but when *S. grotei* was crossed with any other hybrid, the trailing characteristic was almost completely lost. As a result, interest would not occur for another 10 years!

Lyndon Lyon became interested in developing a better trailing violet around 1966. 'Violet Trail' was his first real success. This single purple flowering violet could fan its foliage in a circle 12" across and completely cover the sides of the pot. And the trailers took off from there!

Lyon used the species *Saintpaulia magungensis* for his research to get the semi and mini trailers. The results were two great trailers, 'Pixie Blue' and 'Pipsqueek'.

Propagation of trailers may be done by root division, suckers, or putting a leaf down. Their cultural requirements are pretty much the same as other African violets:

1. Ideal temperatures between 70° and 72° during the day and around 68° at night. Of course, this is not always possible. They can take quite a variance, but growth will be slow or nonexistent if lower than 60° or higher than 80°. A difference of more than ten degrees between daytime and nighttime temperatures can produce problems.
2. A light, airy soil is preferable, due to the fine root structure of violets. "Soilless" mixes have become quite popular.
3. Fertilizers with a formula of 20-20-20, alternating with 12-36-14 have been very effective for me. I also use plain water several times a month.
4. Repotting should be done every six months to a year.



5. Disbudding has not proven successful for me with my trailers. I just cross my fingers, hold my breath and pray that they will be in full bloom before a show!
6. As for pot size, I don't stick with the 1/3rd rule (that the pot should be 1/3rd the size of the plant). Trailers seem to grow quite fast, so I usually go with a pot size that doesn't look too ridiculous, knowing it will soon be filled.
7. Natural light over artificial light for trailers - this works in many cases. And it sure helps when one's light stands become filled!

Tips on how to have a good looking trailer:

1. Do not remove suckers - they are needed for a dense, bushy plant and the crowns of these suckers will, hopefully, grow to cascade over the sides of the pot. Most important, trailers must have at least three crowns. Occasionally (and depending upon the variety) a plant will not sucker. If this happens, pinch off the center crown (small leaves at the crown) and since it now has no growing point, it will be forced to send out suckers.
2. Pinch an inch from each stem to force new growth which will help create a bushy plant.
3. Remove cross leaves (leaves that are blocking flower stalks).

Hope this encourages you to try the trailer varieties. Good luck and happy growing!

Reprinted from "Ye Bay Stater",
publication of the Bay State AVS

Big Enough!

by Byron Borck

"My plants never get THAT big! What am I doing wrong?"
"I never get that many blossoms!"
"My violets never look like that!"

These comments are made quite often by the public, as well as other violet growers, when viewing a display of well-grown violets. I've even made these comments myself over the years.

So what am I doing wrong and why don't my plants look like the ones I saw? Maybe nothing! But let's explore those opening comments.

Growing a plant to a large size is not as difficult as it seems, nor does it take years. It is helpful to know if the variety being grown is supposed to get big. Some hybridizers specialize in plants that stay small enough to grow on a window sill, or even smaller as miniatures and semi-miniatures; so it is helpful to know as much as you can about the hybridizer and the variety. A good place to start checking is in the AVSA's Master Variety List. This list will tell you if the variety grows large or if it is a normal sized standard, a small or compact standard, semi-miniature, etc.

Once you have obtained a large-growing variety, then it is up to you to apply good cultural practices so the plant will grow to its full potential. Keeping the plant disbudded will send the plant's energy into helping it grow larger and more symmetrical.

Stunting or dwarfing a plant can easily happen. Plants that are kept in a cold growing environment will grow slower

and have smaller leaves. Keeping a plant in a small pot or not potting to a larger pot on time will limit the size of a plant. Not keeping the soil evenly moist will also result in smaller plants.

The number of blossoms a plant has in bloom is determined by heredity and, once again, cultural conditions. Many of the older varieties do not seem to produce the large number of blooms that the new varieties do. Keeping a plant disbudded for six months or even longer will increase the number of blossom stems, which increases the blossom count.

In summary, to grow a large violet:

- Start with a large-growing variety
- Keep it disbudded
- Remove suckers as they form
- Remove immature, distorted or damaged leaves
- Pot up when needed
- Support leaves with a plant ring
- Keep leaves clean by washing plant regularly
- Give plant room to grow

Keep in mind that cultural conditions and the environment that the plants grow in will affect how violets grow and how they look. Soil, water, light, temperature, fertilizer, etc. all contribute to blossom and leaf color.

Reprinted from the California Council News

DISBUDDING

by Kim Thorogood • Australia

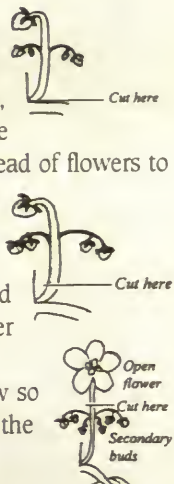
We all know that the ultimate aim of any grower is to have a healthy plant that blooms profusely. Certainly, when we all start growing it would break our heart to accidentally break off a flower stem. With disbudding, it's deliberate. Yes folks, we make a conscious effort to remove all or most of the flower stalks. It's really painful when you first start but when you recognize the advantages of this way of doing things it becomes a bit easier.

Disbudding promotes even growth of the foliage of the plant. Instead of having tiny leaves in the center because the light hasn't been able to penetrate, these leaves can grow at a normal rate. In fact, the growth will even accelerate because energy is not going into the production of blooms. Once disbudding ceases there will be a larger head of flowers to make it all worthwhile. The process also means you can have some control over the time of flowering of each plant.

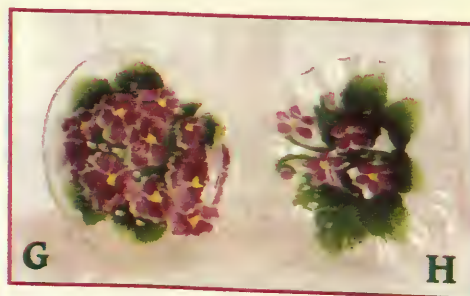
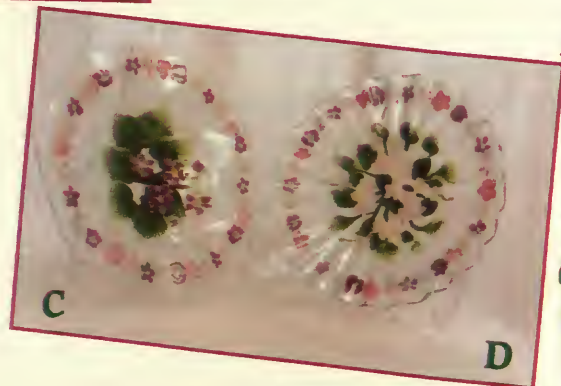
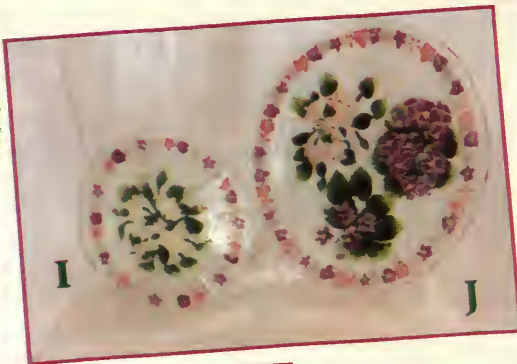
Plants should be disbudded for up to 8 weeks before a show for doubles, 7 weeks for semidoubles and 6 weeks for singles. Minis and semi-minis need to have a stub left on the plant else they will sucker profusely.

Disblossoming is where the first bloom is removed prior to the show so the other blooms can use the energy to develop and open at roughly the same line.

Reprinted from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc. Newsletter, Australia



Just in time for the Holidays! Folio Art Glass Products from AVSA



Folio Art Glass Products from AVSA

Unlike many traditional art pieces, fused glass is meant to be more than merely decorative. Fused glass is both food and dishwasher safe.

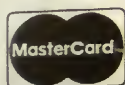
During the manufacturing process the glassware is delicately decorated by hand, using enamel powders layered between clear glass. The piece is then placed on a mold and fired at nearly 1500 degrees. This causes the glass to take the

shape of the mold and allows the glass and enamel to fuse. The process creates both a texture and bubble pattern, which combine to make each piece truly unique.

Shipping time will be from 4-8 weeks from the AVSA Office. AVSA does not have an inventory of the glass items and will order them as required.

Name _____ Address _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Code	Item	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
A	Lamp	\$49.00		
B	Candleholder	\$24.00		
C	10" Soft Fluted Bowl	\$22.00		
D	10" Sharp Fluted Plate	\$22.00		
E	8" Fluted Bowl	\$14.00		
F	8" Flat Plate	\$14.00		
G	7" Flat Cake Plate	\$12.00		
H	7" Berry Bowl	\$12.00		
I	10" Flat Dinner Plate	\$22.00		
J	16" Platter	\$65.00		
K	Sun Catchers	\$8.00 ea.		
Sub-Total				
Christmas Ornaments from AVSA				
L	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	\$14.95		
M	Ms. Smartypants	\$14.95		
Sub-Total				
(2 ornaments for \$25.00)				
Total				



VISA / MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

The Effects of Light on the Growth of African Violets

A Science Project by Laura Ulrich, 7 Grade, Reading, PA



My Science Fair project begins with buying 6 of the same African violet plant in a local discount store.



At home, I removed all the flowers, buds, dead or damaged leaves, and repotted them.



Two of the plants were placed under my Mom's florescent lights, along with her other violets.



Two others were placed near a window to grow in natural light.



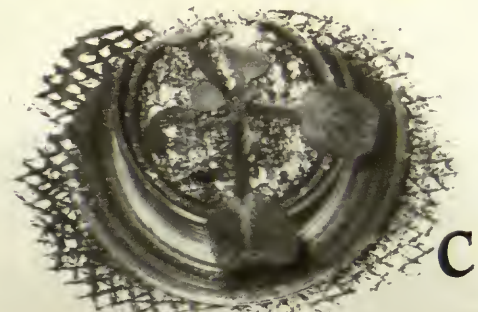
The last two plants were placed on a table far from a light source. All the plants were watered with the same fertilizer. After 3 months, I chose only one from each growing area for my project display.



Plant A - Grown under the lights, grew very well. It had nice leaves and had gotten much bigger.



Plant B - Grown by the window had nice, healthy leaves, too. But, they were not as full as the leaves on Plant A. It did not grow very much.



Plant C - Eventually died because it did not get enough light.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

DONORS: In order to have your donation listed correctly in the African Violet Magazine column please tell me how to list your NAME or CLUB NAME, CITY, STATE.

Donations received from June 1, 1999 - July 31, 1999

Casper Bloomers AVC, Casper, WY	\$20.00	Diane Keller, Austin, TX	\$5.00	First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL.	\$25.00
Wichita AV Study Group, Wichita, KS.	15.00	Cynthia O'Brien, Norwalk, CT.	5.00	<i>In memory of Chris Howell</i>	
Gulf AV Club, Cape Coral, FL.	10.00	Florence S. Roberts, Volcan Chiriqui, Panama	10.00	First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	10.00
W.E. Blankenstein, Wilmington, DE	50.00	Kathryn Thielan, Belleville, IL	5.00	Hoosier AVS, Crown Point, IN	10.00
<i>In memory of Lyndon Lyon</i>		Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA	5.00	Nancy A. Reimer, St. Augustine, FL	10.00
Central Jersey AVS, Fords, NJ	5.00	Mrs. Max Krakofsky, Chelsea, MA	5.00	AV Study Group, St. Anthony, MN	25.00
<i>A donation on behalf of Karyn Cichochi</i>		H.B. Maddox, Gardiner, WA.	5.00	Amir Foroughi Abai, Iran	2.00
AVS of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY	50.00	Quannapowitt AV Club, Malden, MA	20.00	Elizabeth Gottshall, Collegeville, PA	32.00
<i>In memory of Lyndon Lyon</i>		Carol Smith, New York, NY	2.00	Gloria Lieberman, Aventura, FL	10.00
Bergan County AVS, Hackensack, NJ	25.00	Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France.	10.00	Hilda Johnson, Cambridge, MA	10.00
<i>In memory of Lyndon Lyon</i>		JoAnn Osborne, Alpharetta, GA	10.00	Adah R. Sutton, Columbus, OH	20.00
Mary Ann Corrigan, Richardson, TX.	25.00	Elizabeth Gerry O'Neill, Oak Ridge, TN	5.00	Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC	10.00
<i>In memory of Sara Wilson,</i>		Susie Quon, Arcadia, CA	50.00	Topeka AVS, Topeka, KS	20.00
<i>Paula Foster's mother</i>		Ms. Antonia DeMattio, Wheat Ridge, CO.	10.00	<i>In memory of Catherine Lowell</i>	
Pacific Northwest Judges Council, Seattle, WA	50.00	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	2.00	Juanita Freeman, Altadena, CA	2.00
<i>In memory of long time members we lost last year</i>		Alice Downing, Seabastopol, CA.	2.00	Phyllis Gridley, Golden Valley, MN	3.00
<i>Jeanne Myers, Linda Holt and Valerie Miller</i>		AV Club of Burlington County, NJ	15.00	Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY	5.00
Melinda Murphy, Blue Springs, MO	2.00	<i>In lieu of judging expenses for Frank Senna,</i>		James Frechette, Myakka City, FL.	10.00
Anita Mc Creary, Pasadena, MD.	2.00	<i>Laura Shannon and Jan Murasko</i>		Kathryn Tedford, Manlius, NY	2.00
Beverly T. Roth, Hope, AR	2.00	Ruth Collins, Folsom, CA.	10.00	Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA.	5.00
Walter A. Roth, Baton Rouge, LA	2.00	Fort Worth AVS, Forth Worth, TX.	10.00	Mina Miyai Roy, Cold Bay, AK.	5.00



AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

Contributions received from 1 June to 31 July 1999

Meredith Hall, Houston, TX.	\$25.00	Park Place AVC, Houston, TX.	\$25.00	Phyllis Gridley, Golden Valley, MN.	\$4.00
<i>In fond remembrance of Sarah Wilson,</i>		<i>Apply to the Beaumont office copier fund</i>		Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS	7.00
<i>mother of Paula Foster</i>		Chun Miao Yeh, Taipei, Taiwan	2.81	Theresa Rowan, Albany, NY	5.00
Mildred Borsch, St. Louis, MO	10.00	Union County Chapter AVSA.		Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX.	10.00
Carol Smith, New York, NY	3.00	Scotch Plains, NJ.	15.00	<i>In fond memory of Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>	
Joy Rohan, Gainesville, FL	12.00	<i>To honor the memory of Mr. Lyndon Lyon</i>		Georgette Jolivet, Meza, AZ.	2.00
Doris Acree, McKenzie, TN	6.00	Jane Rexilius, Houston, TX	25.00	Lois Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ	25.00
Charles & Esther E. Wells and		<i>With fond remembrance of former AVSA</i>		<i>Apply to copy machine fund for Beaumont office</i>	
Jessie Edwards, Liberty, MO.	25.00	<i>President, Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		Thomas Edds, Madison, WI.	7.00
<i>In fond memory of former</i>		Lynn Lombard, Colfax, CA	10.00	C.P. Povey, Stillwater, MN	50.00
<i>AVSA President, Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		<i>In memory of Hilda Douglas</i>		Mid-Polk AVS, Auburndale, FL.	10.00
Manikhode Boungheng, Paris, France.	10.00	Tracey Tadmam, Bedminster, NJ	5.00	<i>In fond memory of John Sears,</i>	
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	2.00	Mid-America AVS, Kansas City, MO	20.00	<i>husband of Audrey Sears</i>	
JoAnn Osbourne, Alpharetta, GA	10.00	Nancy Reimer, Jacksonville, AL	10.00	AVS Springfield, Delaware County, PA.	10.00
Charles & Esther E. Wells and Jessie Edwards,		Jane Rexilius, Houston, TX	25.00	<i>Apply toward Beaumont office copier machine fund</i>	
Liberty, MO.	25.00	<i>To honor the memory of Sarah Wilson,</i>		Crosstown AV Club, Madison, WI.	50.00
<i>In reminiscence of Sarah Wilson,</i>		<i>Paula Foster's mother</i>		<i>Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program</i>	
<i>mother of Paula Foster</i>		Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC	10.00	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX.	10.00
Antonia DiMatteo, Wheat Ridge, CO.	10.00	Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX	25.00	<i>In memory of Sarah Wilson,</i>	
North Texas AV Judges Council.	10.00	<i>Apply toward new copier fund for Beaumont office</i>		<i>mother of Paula Foster</i>	
<i>In memory of Sarah Wilson,</i>		Joshua McKinney, Goshen, KY.	2.00	Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hills, FL	5.00
<i>mother of Paula Foster</i>		Marvin Nester, Lakeland, FL	10.00	Kathleen Spracklen, Eugene, OR	10.00
<i>Apply toward the office copier fund</i>		Amir Foroughi Abari, Isfahan, Iran.	1.00	Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA.	50.00
Janet Thorsrud, San Jose, CA	2.00	Spring Branch AV Club, Houston, TX	25.00		
1st AVS Spartansburg, Spartansburg, SC.	15.00	<i>Apply toward copier for AVSA National office</i>			

TOTAL: \$635.81



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email: jabar@foothill.net

I Need a Screwdriver!

I haven't lost my marbles, but I do have a loose screw. Some of you are saying "What else is new". My doctor says my hip replacement needs to be tightened, thus the loose screw. My husband has had a field day with my "loose screw". Fortunately, in six weeks he will no longer be with me. It will be our 50th Wedding Anniversary, and he only came with a fifty-year warranty. SO LONG, JACK.

Another thing came up in the last month. I was asked to say something about packing plants and leaves for shipment. There are many ways that it is done. I find the easiest is to leave the plant in its pot, wrap the pot with Saran Wrap, securing wrap around the top of the soil just under the leaves. You can secure it with tape or rubber bands. With rubber bands you can just snip the band with scissors and the whole thing comes off easily. After the soil is secure, I then roll the plant up in paper, securing it with another rubber band. It helps if the plant is just a fraction dry. Not too dry, as it may be in shipment too long and arrive too dry to salvage. However, it's better to be dry than too wet. Without airflow it will rot.

Leaves are placed in a baggie and then wrapped in bubble plastic. Some of you put a small amount of wet cotton on the stem of the leaf, then wrap it in foil. I have had too many rot off this way, so I don't put anything on it. Then all the wrapped plants and leaves are placed in a box that has been lined with insulation. We built our own home here in Auburn and there is still some extra insulation in the basement. Between the layers of plants, sprinkle a layer of Styrofoam pellets. Lastly, place a layer of insulation on top and seal the box. It's insulated against heat and cold as well as cushioned.

Remember, if someone is good enough to share with you, please return the postage, asked for or not. When corresponding with me, always send a self addressed and stamped envelope for my reply.

Thanks to you all for sharing our African violet history with others.

Barbara

AVSA Most Wanted

Ace Of Cedar Rapids

Adele

Admiral Amazon

Albert The Second

Alaine

Alice's Cochise

Alice's White Xmas

Amazon Pink Delight

Amazon Pink Luster

Anafair

Andante

Antique Mahogany

Arpege

Audry

Autumn Glow

Azure Beauty

Bashful Beauty

Blue Heiress

Blue Rosette

Blue Warrior

Colorama

Dark Angel

Dresden Doll

Elsted's Oak Leaf Cluster

Emperor Wilhelm

Fairy Prince

Fleur DiMais

G.G. Angel Lace

G.G. White Lace

Granger's Festival

Green Go

Heather Mist

Heavenly Halo

Indian Girl

Lacy Girl

Little Purple Clouds

Marine

(the old one) by Harris

Mary Louise

Mimi's Stars

Murphy's Law

Rhapsodie Angelica

Rhapsodie Annie

The Redhead

Twist of Lime

White Ruffles

The Impeachment of Jack Know It All

by Ralph Breden • Redondo Beach, CA

A challenge for many African violet clubs is to find interesting programs for respective meetings. Repetitious programs on basic violet culture can become an excuse for not attending meetings - "I already know all that stuff."

Without too much advance notice of the contents of a program, the South Coast AVS planners announced, "The Impeachment of Jack Know It All" for Mistreatment of African Violets." For this hearing Jimmy Hang Em* served as independent persecutor. The members of the club served on the panel as unbiased adjudicators. The hearing was opened with formal swearing in.

Persecutor: Do you Jack, swear to tell the truth?

Jack: I'm a God fearing man and don't swear.

Persecutor: A recent visit to your violet room by the hired inspectors revealed apparent mistreatment of violets under your care.

Jack: What do you expect from termite inspectors?

Persecutor: They reported stressed out plants due to lack of watering, and recommend not letting your plants dry out completely - checking periodically to determine if soil is moist and, if wicked, test moisture in the wick.

Jack: That may be well and good if we don't have a dry spell with a water shortage. I will present a plant in this witch hunt that proves that mere closeness to moisture is sufficient for some plants.

Persecutor: The investigators stated that there was evidence of soil mealy bugs found on many plants. These bugs are a real menace to African violets. There are many prescribed treatments - certain chemical sprays, removal of and repotting new crown. The most effective way to control the pest is TCD - Trash Can Disposal.

Jack: I'm shocked that you suggest elimination of soil mealybug. My most recent environmental letter listed them as being on the endangered species list.

Persecutor: Jack, what have you done to cause all the spots on the leaves of your plants? Some may be caused by careless drops of water, plants touching each other and/or direct sun on the leaves. What is your response to the charge?

Jack: Again the inspectors are attempting to discourage

scientific progress. We have tiger lilies, monkey pods, horse chestnuts and cattails. I am attempting to develop a leaf with uniform spots - a leopard leaf on a violet plant would be a definite breakthrough.

Persecutor: Apparently you keep your plants in crowded conditions with little or no air circulation which has resulted in mildew on many plants.

Jack: This is the danger of having inspectors who are in no way African violet judges and not aware of the newest technology. What they saw was mild E.W. - electron waves - used to create a new introduction called Dusty Miller.

Persecutor: Jack, are you aware that African violets respond positively when repotted frequently in appropriate sized pots? The rule of thumb for a standard African violet is pot diameter one third the diameter of the plant leaf span. Miniature and semi miniatures are generally potted in two-inch pots. The investigators found in their inspection practically all your plants revealed distress due to being potted in "one size fits all" pots.

Jack: Have you not heard of the economy in buying in bulk? Pots are not cheap and I save dollars by using only one size.

I earlier mentioned in my testimony that I would present a plant to prove my theory on watering. I now show you the plant also to demonstrate my philosophy of pot size. This African violet, a gift from the local art plant shop, has been in my bathroom for twenty five years, was watered by drenching only once and has never been repotted. It has bloomed constantly.

Persecutor: Jack, your testimony has not been very convincing - do you have anything further to say in your defense?

Jack: Well, after hearing discussion surrounding the charges, maybe the question as to why I've never won a rosette for my collection entry is solved.

Persecutor: Mr. Fairman, has the panel of adjudicators reached a verdict?

Mr. Fairman: Your honor we have. We find the defendant guilty of not abiding by guidance found in the AVSA Handbook.

*Names have been changed to protect the innocent

Note 1: The verdict is being appealed to a higher authority - readers of the A.V.M.

AVSA MOST WANTED PLANTS FOUND GROWING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Many thanks to Corrie van Heerden for responding with these plants that have been on the AVSA Most Wanted List. Some have been on the "Wanted" list a long time. It's growers like this that make my efforts so much easier.

Antique Elegance
Cinnamon Twist
Coconut Frost
Edge of Midnight
Edna Fischer

Elisa Rocha
Feather
Fire and Ice
Flight of Butterflies
Frosted Ruby

Fugii Gold
Golden Rubies
Louisiana Sugar Cane
Old Dominion Sparkler
Pink Camisole

Pink Pizzazz
Pink Philly
Spatter and Whisper

Thanks again Corrie,
we really appreciate
your generosity.

Barbara Elkin

Creating

African Violet Hybrids

by John Brownlie
Mississauga, ON
Canada

African violets in the species form have been on the earth for millions of years. It has been only in the last 60 years that hybridizers with vision to see their potential have helped in the creation of new, improved and different varieties. Just over a half century from species to what we have today! It's incredible! Along the way we have witnessed great changes from single-flowered plants that usually dropped their blooms, having a narrow color range, to what we have today. All these improvements would have never come to be had it not been for dedicated hybridizers.

Mutations appeared in cultivation and people were quick to realize their potential and cross on them and with them. What wonders there are when we see the wide range of colors, each new generation better than before. We take for granted the abundance of bloom on our hybrids, but only a short few years ago plants were sparse. The huge doubles, variegated leaves, multicolors, trailers, miniatures, fantasy types; the list goes on! That range of success is what motivated these men and women to where we are today. And this is just the beginning, folks! Each new year that passes brings more people into the adventure of hybridizing.

Where should I hybridize? The ideal place would be in a greenhouse, able to accommodate thousands of seedlings for selection. The late Bill Johnson once wrote that one can be very successful in a small space growing from 50 to 100



seedlings from a cross, having a mathematical chance of success from a representative number of seedlings. Many hobby growers have made their contributions to the beauty we now enjoy. Think of the names 'Ms Pretty', 'Something Special', 'Happy Cricket', 'Amazing Grace' and 'Kiwi Dazzle' to mention a few that were produced in limited space. "Where" isn't as important as, "Do I want to do it all?" and if "Yes", "How do I begin?"

To make a cross onto an African violet, you remove the pollen from the anthers of the bloom and apply it to the stigma of a bloom on the "mother" plant. A pod will usually develop from within 6 to 9 months of fertilization. The stem will dry back and the pod will go from green to light brown. Harvest the seed by spilling them onto a creased piece of white paper.

There are many methods of germination. I plant my seed on a bed of violet soil which has $\frac{3}{4}$ " vermiculite below it. The container is covered with Saran Wrap and held onto the pot with a rubber band. It takes about 3 weeks before you see signs of growth. I wait until each plant is about the size of a clover and then plant them into restaurant creamers with holes punctured in the bottoms for drainage. When they are large enough I transplant them into 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " pots and grow them on to the flowering stage. I then select those which meet my criterion as to whether it is an improvement or not.

Strive for Improvement over existing varieties!

I can't stress that enough! Anyone can assist a violet to produce a seed pod and in turn plant it and produce new hybrids. However, much precious time is wasted when a person produces varieties that are no better than those that currently exist or are often inferior. The growing public will eventually eliminate them from their collections and they will become extinct. Having said that, being human, we are all guilty of the introduction of poor specimens that we thought were good at the time. But as we gain more experience, our quality has improved.

To be a good hybridizer I believe it should start with *you*. Are you an honest straight-forward, careful, inquisitive and persistent person? I believe that a hybridizer has no other magic than that of patient inquiry, great enthusiasm, an unprejudiced mind and an acute judgement of the merits and capabilities of African violets.

A knowledge of genetics can be useful in hybridizing, but it is not the singularly most important skill. Being able to select a worthy mother plant and use the pollen from another is more important. In an earlier talk I once gave on African violets years ago I said, "I cross the best with the best, and hope for the best!" If you want to help create a champion, you have to start with champions!

Selection: If it's good, why is it good?

- Is it an improvement in some way over existing varieties? (Provided you know they exist.) Even if it is a subtle improvement, this is important. I recall one time I enjoyed the bloom of Dick Wasmund's plant, 'Brite Beacon' (a large white star with a wide blue edge). I didn't care too much for the leaf, however, which was a slight strawberry foliage and irregularly shaped. So I crossed 'Optimara Alabama' onto it and developed 'Zachary' with an improved leaf and similar bloom. I liked it, but there was a new problem; it has the tendency to revert back to a solid blue color or contain bleeding of blue into the white at times.

Improvement? Back to the drawing board!

- Do I seek better symmetry?
- Do I seek stronger blossom stems?
- Are the blossoms well-formed or do they have tufts that cover up the anthers?
- Do the leaves have a tendency to "halo" with a light yellowing?
- Do the blooms drop? Many stars are quite beautiful but drop.
- Am I seeking to improve the color of the blossom? A whiter white, a redder red, etc. Does the hue catch my eye?
- Do I want to improve the leaf? (Its shape? Its size? Its strength to bleaching? Its color? etc.)
- Does it sucker easily?

- Do the leaves need pegging to remain symmetrical?
- Does the plant look like a big head of lettuce or cabbage?
- Does the plant establish a good root system or does it grow loose in its pot?
- Do the leaves go from light to having patches of dark on them?
- Do variegates keep their chlorophyll content? (Too much? Too little?)

Once you start looking for the answers to these questions and more you may develop, you are on the way to becoming an accomplished hybridizer.

Don't be concerned about creating new varieties. Aim for improvement in the existing ones and once in a while you will be delighted with something "new" that you hadn't anticipated.

Just a little on genetics:

You should have a "working knowledge" of the dominant and recessive characteristics of African violets. This will save you considerable time and give you some predication in what to expect from your cross. An example: Years ago when I first started to hybridize I crossed 'Happy Harold', a variegated, onto 'Rhapsodie Monique'. They are both red blooming plants. I was hoping to get a better red bloom onto a variegated hybrid. Little did I know that you must cross onto a variegated plant to produce variegated seedlings.

Some dominant characteristics:

Purple or dark blue
Double blossoms
All edged blossoms
Dogwood tips
Girl foliage (green with a white base)
Fantasy blossoms.
White blooms. (Surprising to many)

Some recessive characteristics:

Coral and many hues of red
Pink
Single blossoms
Fringed edged blooms
Star-shaped blossoms

Editor's note - 'Creating African Violet Hybrids' was the subject of an outstanding workshop presented by John Brownlie at the 29th Annual Convention and show of the AVS of Canada in 1996.

*Reprinted from 'Chatter',
publication of the AVS of Canada*

Grooming



Gesneriads



by Monte Watler • Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

Grooming of plants is a very time consuming but necessary task. While some of our growers are to be admired for their clinically clean plant rooms where ne'er a drop of dust or a spent leaf tarry, I cannot boast of such an environment. However, it is necessary to keep your growing areas fairly tidy and free of spent leaves and blossoms.

This can be done on a regular basis and the best time is probably when you are watering. As you check each plant for watering needs you can also scan it for dried leaves and spent blossoms. Have a pair of scissors handy and snip away as you wander from one plant to another. It is also advisable to set aside a certain time for a general inspection. Remove everything, including pots and trays, from the shelves. The shelves and trays should be washed with a mild detergent to which a small amount of bleach has been added. Prior to replacing the pots, inspect each one carefully for unwanted tenants as well as assessing whether it needs pinching back, repotting or topping up with new soil. Before replacing the trays the entire area can be sprayed with a Lysol spray. This not only gives the plant room a pleasant smell but will inhibit mildew. It is also an ideal time to remove excess growth for propagation.

Dust free foliage is necessary for the plants to breathe. A soft hair brush is necessary and should be drawn gently across the leaves from stem to tip, removing the dust which may have settled there. Stubborn bits of lint or water marks maybe be removed by using a damp tissue and lightly tapping the soiled spot. Cotton swabs are also useful for this purpose.

General grooming means keeping your plants free of all spent flowers, dead leaves and dust and keeping the plant in an overall fair condition. Grooming for show is a little more intricate and many details have to be considered.

SYMMETRY OR FORM:

Depending on the growth habit of the plant, one has to keep it as symmetrical as possible in order to make a good showing. For plants such as *Saintpaulia*, *Petrocosmea*, *Episcia*, and *Sinningia*, this is absolutely essential. Even though plants such as *Columnea*, *Aeschynanthus*, and *Codonanthe* are inclined to twist and turn, they can be kept in a balanced order by continually pinching and layering the stems. A well balanced plant is definitely more attractive than one which had been allowed to grow in every direction.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF BLOOM:

If a plant is being entered in a class that requires bloom, then it should have a fair amount, and this is sometimes related to the size of the plant, the amount of foliage and the type of plant being judged. Plants such as *Saintpaulia*, *Streptocarpus*, and *Sinningia* are very floriferous, therefore should possess a great deal of bloom while the shy bloomers such as some of the chiritas may be quite acceptable with a lesser amount. Judges will also take into consideration the difficulty in blooming certain species. By careful manipulation, a plant with a few scattered blossoms can be made to look quite attractive if the blooms are brought together at center of the crown.

This works very well with *Saintpaulia*, *Petrocosmea* and *Sinningia*.

CULTURAL PERFECTION:

This covers a multitude of chores. The fresh and healthy appearance of growth. Removal of ugly stubs, stalks and discolored, misshapen, or superfluous leaves. Strange as it may seem, even the removal of a healthy leaf may improve a plant's appearance. Long necks and bare stems can be camouflaged by either repotting or covering the top of the soil with sphagnum moss in order to cover the bare spots. All markers and props must be removed from the plants. A sticker or a plant label left on the pot will result in a deduction of marks.

Over or under potting is also a consideration and easy to correct. Plants must be absolutely insect and disease free. If in any doubt please leave the plant at home. Careful handling of your plants is necessary as a quick turn of your hand may snap a leaf - which in turn may destroy your plant's potential of winning a blue ribbon. Some growers recommend that you groom while the plant is on the dry side as at this stage the leaves are not brittle and can be manipulated much more easily.

It is also advisable to pack and transport your plants in this condition as well but at the same time assuring that the plants are not damaged by being too dry for a long period of time.

Reprinted from "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada



in Winter

by Ina Beaver • Canada

Mother Nature dictates that almost all living things go through a semi dormant, if not fully dormant, period from late autumn until spring. Are you not more apt to curl up with a good book during the winter, and don't you sleep more? I do. Your African violets have stopped blooming under natural conditions and no doubt have slowed down in their growth cycle because they just are not getting enough light in the window; days are short and the sunshine is weak. Do not worry, because along about the middle of February they will start to grow and they should be in bloom sometime in April or May.

It is very important at this time to give your plants as much light as possible, even moving them under table lamps in the evening. Give them very little fertilizer at this time as they are not utilizing it. You may end up with crystals in the crown (center of the plant) a brownish stain in the middle of the leaves or perhaps on the edges of the leaves. If this should happen pour two or three slightly warm cups of water through your pot to rid the soil of the excess fertilizer and don't allow any of this water to remain in the saucer. You should always remove extra water from your saucer after half hour or so.

While on this subject, I might note that many gesneriads go through a dormant period and many of the sinningias go into complete dormancy, particularly in the autumn. At this time I remove the tops, most of the old roots on the tubers, repot in fresh almost dry soil, cover them and place in a cool dark place and check on them now and then. When they want to - and only then, and when new little "bunny ears" appear on the top should they be brought into the light and watered. I had a tuber of *S. 'Canencens'* remain dormant for over year. As long as the tuber remains firm to the touch it should survive. Many of the rhizome type plants such as *Achimenes* need to remain dormant several months. Fibrous rooted plants such as *Columnea* cease growing during the winter. Much to my horror, the first two years I had a *Drymonia* and *Cobananthus* they dropped almost all their leaves in October, but come spring, new leaves grew back.

The only plants I have that prefer to bloom in late autumn are my eucodonias. My smithianthas bloom in December and January. Yes, I do grow under lights. I use

either two cool white 40 inch tubes or one cool and one warm white. The grow lights are lovely to use but the others are eight times cheaper. Summers I have them on twelve hours a day, then during the fall months they are decreased to ten hours per day. I gradually increase the number of hours to fifteen per day prior to our show at the end of April. Never exceed fifteen hours and ensure that your plants have eight or more hours of darkness.

Most of us have dry conditions in our homes during the winter months, and our plants love to be misted every day. Fill your mister with hot water, hold it a foot or so above the leaves, and spray (with a fine spray) until beads form on the leaves. Take care not to get your leaves too wet, especially the crowns. If you should accidentally get water in the crown, take a paper towel or tissue and soak up the excess. If water is allowed to remain in the crown it will rot. If you are growing in natural light, ensure that leaves are dry before returning them to the window.

When spring comes, watch for powdery mildew. It thrives when dampness in homes is prevalent, as happened in Atlantic Canada (where I live) last year. Powdery mildew seems to be the most trouble we violet growers have to put up with. It looks as if baby powder has been sprinkled on plants and can kill the plant in short order if allowed to remain unchecked. The best preventative is not overcrowding, placing a small fan near but not blowing directly on the plants, and good air circulation throughout the house. If mildew should appear, a light spraying with Lysol a foot or so above the affected plant may do the trick. For more serious attacks, try one of the following - use Ivory dish washing liquid - 1 tsp. per quart of water, spray thoroughly and rinse off after a few minutes.

Benomyl or Fermate may also be used as a soil drench - 1/4 tsp. per quart of warm water. This is a systemic remedy and would be slower acting. One grower I know paints the soap solution on the offending leaves. I would suggest removing the blossom stems also as they seem to be attacked the quickest.

Reprinted from "Chatter",
publication of the AVS of Canada

Leaf Propagation

by Ron Smith
Australia

Grow new African violets by propagating a leaf.

You need very few things for this task.

- The Leaf
- Sufficient Potting Mix
- Acrylic Yarn, suitably damp
- Small Pot
- Very Sharp Knife
- Plant Label & Pencil

Leaves and baby plants prefer a slightly different potting mix to their big brothers and sisters. They like a potting mix with extra vermiculite, say 30% vermiculite, 70% very light potting mix. Don't be too concerned, leaves will grow without altering the mix. However, they grow better and they are easier to divide and handle when you eventually take on the task of potting up the baby plants.

First, choose your leaf.

This should be a youngish leaf, I would say about middle age, which you will find around about the middle layer of leaves (third or fourth from the center) on the plant. In the case of a variegated plant be sure to choose a leaf with plenty of green on it.

If you select an old leaf you will be much older yourself before you get any baby plants. It is usually possible to tell what kind of leaf you have purchased or been given. If the underside of the petiole (leaf stem) has a pot rim mark it is an old grandfather leaf, for sure, unless it came from a very young plant.

Now is the easy part - take the leaf, and make a cut through the petiole (leaf stem) leaving about 3 or 4 centimeters or 3/4" of an inch. Put the leaf aside so that the cut end will dry. Prepare the pot keeping the potting mix as loose as possible, then write the name of the plant and the date on a label and on the pot.

Take the leaf and make a small indentation with the blunt end of the pencil in the surface of the potting mix. Insert the leaf just 1/2" or just over 1 centimeter into the hole just made and label the leaf. The lower you plant the leaf the longer it will take for the baby plants to reach the surface.

Some growers water the pot from the top, but I do not. My belief is that it gives the cut

surface time to heal so there is less chance of the leaf rotting. I then place the pot on a water reservoir. Some growers put a small amount of fertilizer in the water, and some do not. It all depends on your own choice. Too much fertilizer and it will burn the young roots. Place the pot in a warm position where there is plenty of air movement, not drafts. Now wait.

The speed of growth of plants from the leaf is controlled by several factors; temperature, humidity and age of leaf. If the leaf has been in the potting mix for some time and the leaf itself has not grown then it had passed its best "use by" date and it will possibly take a long time to produce baby plants. If the leaf itself gets bigger after potting then you have a nice middle-aged leaf which was at the time of removal in the prime of life and still growing. Baby plants should appear through the potting mix in about 4 to 5 weeks after planting.

At this juncture there is again a choice. Some growers cut off part of the mother leaf and some remove the leaf. The explanation being it could give the small plants more light, and saves the plantlets from becoming deformed. My mother leaf is left on as long as possible to provide for the growing infants.

Do not remove variegated leaves. Always remember that small plants with white leaves will not survive on their own until they have managed to get green sections. (Remember photosynthesis on their leaves.)

When the plantlets are about 1 1/2" tall (3 to 4 centimeters), it is time to pot them up individually into their own pots. This depends in some way on the season. If it is winter and cold, and if you do not have a light stand with ideal conditions it may be worth delaying this operation until it is warmer.

By planting them up when they are small, the little plants are compact. If they are left until they are taller in the mother pot they tend to get "leggy". One other point, don't attempt to pot up variegated plantlets until they have a substantial amount of green on their leaves or they will surely die.

*Reprinted from the
AVS of South Australia, Inc. Newsletter*

1999 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson

1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007

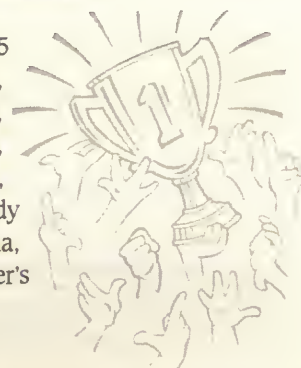
floydll@earthlink.net

Welcome to AVSA's third "World's 25 Best African Violets" List. This list is from growers around the world sending in their lists of the 25 violets which were their favorites. Lists came from four continents and eight nations, totaling more than 9,000 votes. This is a truly worldwide effort. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to each who has encouraged me along the way. I cannot personally answer each note, but they are deeply appreciated.

Again this year we have added the descriptions from AVSA's First Class computer data base. At the request of many, a list of the "runners up" without descriptions is appended.

1. **Irish Flirt** (7577) 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
3. **Picasso** (6924) 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, plain/silver-green back. **Large**
4. **Ode to Beauty** (7677) 02/28/92 (G. Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble medium coral star/thin raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
5. **Melodie Kimi** (8100) 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
6. **Tomahawk** (7269) 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. **Large**
7. **Precious Pink** (6025) 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. **Variegated**, plain. **Semiminiature**
8. **Pixie Blue** (2598) 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/ darker center. Plain, ovate. **Miniature trailer**
9. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**
10. **Favorite Child** (7676) 02/28/92 (G. Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, rays, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
11. **Harbor Blue** (6174) 02/24/86 (T. Weber) Single light blue/darker eye. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
12. **Granger's Wonderland** (3419) 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. **Large**
13. **Rob's Sticky Wicket** (6467) 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**
14. **Rainbow's Quiet Riot** (R. Wasmund) Semidouble blue-purple large star/white fantasy. Dark green, round, scalloped. **Standard**
15. **Ness' Satin Rose** (8144) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
16. **Happy Cricket** (5726) 04/29/84 (Hollada) Double lavender two-tone frilled. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Large**
17. **Snuggles** (5018) 08/27/82 (L. Lyon) Semidouble pink. **Variegated**. **Semiminiature**
18. **Falling Snow** (Tracey) Semidouble white. Light green. **Semiminiature trailer**
19. **Ness' Viking Maiden** (7182) 09/05/89 (D. Ness) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Medium green wavy, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
20. **Milky Way Trail** (7169) 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature trailer**
21. **Little Pro** (6637) 06/11/87 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Dark green, quilted, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
21. **Powwow** (7708) 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** green and cream, plain. **Standard**
23. **Nortex's Snowkist Haven** (6046) 09/12/85 (B. Johnson) Single white frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
24. **Windy Day** (7719) 06/15/92 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble medium blue star/white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, pointed, ruffled/red back. **Large**
25. **Tiger** (3433) 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. **Variegated**. **Large**
25. **Blushing Ivory** (7942) 10/08/93 (S. Sorano) Single ivory star/wide rose-orchid sparkle edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

RUNNERS UP: (Next 15 cultivars): Fisherman's Paradise, Marching Band, Rob's Mad Cat, Frosted Whisper, International, Sassy Sister, Tiny Wood Trail, Honeysuckle Rose, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Vintage Wine, Everdina, Optimara Rose Quartz, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Lela Marie, The King.



Terraced Terrariums

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

If you want to try something new, enter a terraced terrarium in your club's next show. The basic principles of designing a terraced terrarium are the same as the construction of a flat designed terrarium, with a few exceptions.

You will need a high-domed plastic terrarium, or a large glass terrarium. The glass bowls may be purchased at a florist supply or a florist shop. They can be quite costly, but make a lovely presentation.

I use two glass terrariums. One measures 16"H x 11"W, with a top opening of about 6".

The second measures 11 1/2"H x 9"W with an opening of 8 1/2".

After you fill your terrarium with construction materials, except the plants, it is time to place the terrace dividers. I have found that the fiber plant poles such as to what Ivy or Philodendron are pinned, work well. The poles are much longer than the inside of your terrarium, and must be cut to size with a saw.

As you place your terracing (poles), soil may slide into the front of the bowl. Add more soil, especially to the top layer, where it should be at the highest level.

You should be able to make three levels, with the bottom pole holding back all the soil.

Your terrarium will end up with a well at the front. To this, add several layers of either gravel or lica stones. When you water your plant material the water will run down through the terracing into the well. The gravel or lica stones act as a reservoir, creating humidity for your plants.

After the show is over you may leave your plant material in the terrarium for a while or remove it altogether, especially your African violet. Your terracing will remain in place, ready and waiting for the next show.

You'll be surprised how easy it is to construct a terraced terrarium. I think they give designers more of an opportunity to be creative.

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title
AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

2. Publication Number
009-020

3. Filing Date
9-27-99

4. Issue Frequency
BI-MONTHLY

5. Number of Issues Published Annually
6

6. Annual Subscription Price
\$18.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)
2375 NORTH ST BEAUMONT TX 77002-1722

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)
2375 NORTH ST.
BEAUMONT, TX 77002-1722

9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC
2375 NORTH ST
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77002-1722
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
RUTH P. RUNCIE
2375 NORTH ST
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77002-1722
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
NOT APPLICABLE

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name
THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC
Complete Mailing Address
2375 NORTH ST BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77002-1722

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, September 1998 (Rev. 10/98) (See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title
AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
SEPT/OCT. 1999

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		
(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541, (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	9072	9104
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	7924	7860
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	22	25
(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	266	150
(5) Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	674	679
b. Free Distribution by Mail (Sample, complimentary, and other free)	8886	8714
(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	222	150
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		
c. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
(1) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	0	0
(2) Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15d)	222	150
(3) Copies not Distributed	9108	8936
(4) Total (Sum of 15g and h)	179	220
(5) Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100)	9287	9156
(6) Publication of Statement of Ownership	100	100

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
Publication required. Will be printed in the NOV/DEC 1999 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Jenny Daugrean ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Date
9-27-99

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

- Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
 - In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
 - Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
 - Item 15h: Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newspaper copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
 - If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published: it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
 - In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
 - Item 17 must be signed.
- Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.
- PS Form 3526, September 1998 (Reverse)

Guidelines For Judging

by Bob L. Green • Rockledge, FL



1. Do not use age as the determinate of experience. Experience is acquired by studying, keeping current, and growing a wide range of African violets. Judges who do not maintain their currency by studying and growing the newer varieties of African violets should not accept judging invitations.
2. Giving away ribbons is worse than withholding ribbons; the practice does not encourage better growing nor does it uphold the principles of AVSA. It also discourages growers and exhibitors who work hard on their plants to see poorly grown specimens given the same recognition as their plants.
3. It is probably true that judges who judge by-the-book are not asked to judge as frequently as the more lenient, club pleaser judges – but, in the long run, they are more respected.
4. Don't give an entry a ribbon just because it is in the show. Remember, some entries are permitted either because the Entries Committee lacked the courage to disqualify, or the entries were added at the last minute to fill space.
5. Answer invitations to judge promptly. Accept only when qualified.
6. Study the schedule carefully before arriving to judge.
7. Arrive at show at least 15 minutes before the appointed time.
8. Before judging, take time for a quick walk-through of the entire show; however, do not finalize opinion until you take a close look at entries when judging.
9. Be tolerant when assessing the work of novices or entries in the first show of a new club, however, don't be over-tolerant to the point of awarding ribbons to clearly inferior plants.
10. Be cognizant of a poor growing season and unusual weather conditions. Also, be cognizant of the environmental changes from home to show room, and their effect on plants.
11. Special awards should not be awarded just because they are available. They should be given only for marked superiority.
12. Look for overall appearance, beauty, and condition (ABCs); don't strain at technicalities.
13. Stay at least three feet back from arrangements. Don't touch, pry at, or poke at arrangements. Look for harmony and balance, and schedule interpretation. Remember, the arrangement should carry your eyes smoothly from point A to point B, and the African violets or blossoms should be an integral part of the flow. Points should only be deducted for mechanics when they clearly detract from the total arrangement.
14. Respect entries; don't make flippant or caustic remarks.
15. Don't let personal prejudices affect your judging; always maintain objectivity.
16. Be tolerant of new judges, respect their views, let them participate in decisions, make them feel like part of the team. Do not relegate new judges to low man on the totem pole.
17. Take time to sign blue ribbons and blue ribbon entry cards in a Standard Show.
18. Write discreet and tactful comments on entry cards when time permits, and sign your name. Do not delegate this to a clerk.
19. Do not write criticisms on blue ribbon entry cards. If the entry deserves criticism, then it doesn't deserve a blue.
20. When you write the criticism, start with a compliment. Help the exhibitor by positive rather than negative suggestions. A good exhibitor wants to know where points were lost.
21. Always remember, as judges our main responsibility is to educate and perpetuate better culture.
22. After judging, personally thank clerks for their help.
23. Write a thank-you note to Chairman of Judges for having you judge, within ten days of assignment.

After the Show

by Marilee Beam • Harbor City, CA

The show is over...it was exciting, it was beautiful, but now, what to do with my plants? They are so big, so floriferous.

The first thing I try to do, though not always possible, is remove all the blooms before I put them in the car. I do not want any hitchhiking pests on them...I have enough of my own at home. But sometimes the crew clears the show tables so fast that I can barely get the blossoms pulled. When this happens, I completely disbud them at home before taking them into their holding place. In my case, this is a dining room table far removed from all my plants that stayed at home. I place them on the table and give them a drink of plain water. The only light they will have for a couple of weeks is the chandelier which is not unlike the lights in the showroom.

Our club schedules its show one week before the regular meeting. That way we can bring in leaves of the winners and play Leaf Bingo with them. These are the leaves that everyone has put down on their "want list" so it works out very well. They all know what they want and what they are getting.

Now to my favorite part of having violets: I honestly prefer GROWING to showing, I must admit. I tear down to just a nice crown and repot them in new clean pots with fresh soil, and I can get back to the basic care. I can foliar feed again...I like doing that. I feed them 20-20-20, Rapid-Gro 23-19-17, Optimara 14-12-14, or Volkmann 15-30-15. I vary the fertilizers with each watering. And then I foliar feed with Fish Emulsion every ten days. I feel they are "BORN AGAIN" violets.

After a few weeks of close observation, I return them to the violet stands. After a few more weeks, I sit back and look up the date of the next violet show I plan to enter. Then I begin selecting ten plants to get ready for that show. It is never-ending, but it is so enjoyable. I like growing violets, I really do!

Reprinted from the *California Council News*, joint publication of the AV Council of Southern CA and the Northern CA Council of AV Societies

Culture Shock: Does It Really Show?

by Lisa DiMambro

When it comes to growing show plants, the new grower is always told that consistent care is what is most important when it comes to growing prize winners. We all know that if we don't give our plants good, consistent care that culture shock will show. Well, I wanted to see just how much it would show!

My plants are grown in a downstairs plant room, with temperatures between 68° and 72°, and humidity never lower than 55%. I run a fan twenty-four hours per day and lights are on for ten hours. All plants are wicked and given a constant feed diluted fertilizer.

I took a group of six plants, three minis and three standards. The minis were 'Rob's Crazy Daze', 'Irish Flirt' and 'Sugar Bear Blues'. The standards were 'Majesty', 'Flicker' and 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot'.

All of the plants had their wicks removed and were placed in the different parts of our downstairs area. I hung a light over them and left it on for eight hours per day. The temperature fell between 60° and 70°, with very little humidity. I did water them when I remembered, alternating between fertilized water and plain.

'Sugar Bear Blues' just could not handle this treatment

and died after the first month. The other plants were left this way for another three months. They did grow, but very slowly, and I had a few small blossoms.

The only exception was 'Majesty'. Now here is a plant that seems to thrive on neglect! When I put it out, I had just planted it into a four inch pot. Now it was almost twelve inches across and loaded with blossoms that had a very good amount of yellow in them.

After all this, I brought the plants back into my plant room and rewicked them and placed them back on their shelf. After about another three months, I started to notice the signs that the plants had suffered stress in the past. The older foliage was smaller than the new foliage, blossoms were now bigger and had better color than under the previous stressful conditions. It took about four to six months to grow all the foliage out and have nice looking plants again.

So the next time you say to yourself, "They can wait another day," remember, they need consistent care if you want to have nice looking, prize winning plants at show time.

Reprinted from *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

LAST CHANCE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This is your last chance in the 20th century to donate an award for a convention. HURRY! Awards received by me by February 15, 2000 will be recorded in the 2000 Omaha Convention Souvenir Book. All awards received after February 15, 2000 will be held for the 2001 Convention in Chicago.

Won't you or your club please consider donating an award? The millennium convention should be a great one! (I'm bragging, because my council is sponsoring this

convention and we are a gung-ho group!) Please make your checks payable to AVSA CONVENTION FUND and mail them to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski

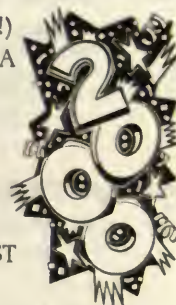
AVSA Award Chairman

1416 N. W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

Home: 816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. CST

e-mail: golubski@kc.net



CONVENTION DATES HAVE CHANGED

Here's a wild idea ... change the convention dates with less than a year to go! May 21-28, 2000 is the newly scheduled week for the Omaha AVSA Convention.

How can this happen? The primary reason is that the NCAA moved the College World Series right into our convention dates. This premier event has a long history in Omaha and our hotel had contracted most of its rooms to the series. Several other bookkeeping errors occurred that prevented anyone from finding out until August of this year. The good news is that AVSA received several concessions when the contract was renegotiated.

So put May 21-28 on your calendar! It is still going to be WILD. There is still time to grow wonderful show plants to enter in the show! And you can bet that the Omaha team is going to work extra hard to make sure you have a wonderful wild time at convention!



November 4 - 6 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council
Annual Convention
Ramada Inn Bayfront
Conference Center
601 North Water Street
Corpus Christi, TX

November 4 - 7 - CALIFORNIA

Northern California
Council of AV Societies
DoubleTree Hotel
1055 Van Ness Ave.
Fresno, CA
Info: Renee Wilson (559) 897-1662

November 5 & 6 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVC Plant Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
3747 34th St., S
St. Petersburg, FL
Nov 5 - 9am - 4pm
Nov 6 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson
(727) 866 - 8830

November 6 & 7 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Haggerty Center
51 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ
Nov 6 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Stephen Burrell (914) 896-8605

November 6 & 7 - MISSOURI

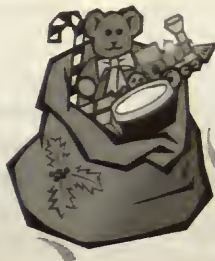
Mid America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5100 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 6 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 7 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Tricia Taylor (816) 353-6571
Gayle Gill (816) 444-5193

November 9 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Presentation
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Hours: 1pm - 3pm
Info: Nancy Stewart (505) 890-8420

November 11 - 13 - VIRGINIA

Mid Atlantic AVS
Convention/Show/Sale
Holiday Inn Central
Richmond, VA
Info: Cathy Akers (540) 786-9587



My African Violet Safari

by Bruno "B-Man" Curcuruto

North York, Ontario, Canada

Back in May 1998, I decided to attend the New York State African Violet Society Convention, this year being held in Syracuse, New York. I picked up a Show Schedule and began planning which violets I would enter. I chose about 40 plants to grow for the show. Most were young plants in 4" pots, but I had five months to pamper them into show condition.

The Convention registration form came in the June issue of the Empire Violet Magazine. I mailed in a US money order and the registration form, but held off on the hotel reservation as I was looking for a traveling buddy and someone to room with. About six weeks before the show I received an e-mail from Paul Kroll. He had heard through Doris Brownlie that I was planning to go to Syracuse and offered to share a room with me. Fred Packer later joined us. All that remained was to reserve a Mini-van.

As the show date approached I began to wonder if I would encounter problems transporting a van load of violets across the border. The only other time I had visited the U.S., I was a passenger going shopping in Buffalo and was harassed about a \$20.00 pair of shoes. My fears were alleviated with advice from Doris Brownlie and Paul Kroll. They suggesting simply describing the violets as houseplants, grown in my home, in a soilless mix and to mention that they would be coming back with me. Easy enough! Doris also mentioned that Carolyn Conlin-Lane enters from the Thousand Island Bridge and has never been hassled about her plants. The day before departure, I picked up the van and began the process of packing 42 plants. It took me all day to do the final pruning and cleaning.

The following morning I loaded the van almost to the roof, and headed east on Highway 401. For the duration of that three hour trip to the border, there was nothing else but the U.S. Customs check point on my mind. I had visions of violets scattered all over the parking lot. Turning off at the Thousand Island crossing, my pulse rate quickened. I approached a control point just before the Thousand Island Bridge and stopped. The lady in the booth asked for a two dollar toll. Driving on I thought to myself, "That was easy!" Then it hit me while passing a speed limit sign in kilometers that I was still on Canadian soil! Now my blood pressure is soaring!!

I arrived at the U.S. Customs and waited in line, watching

the cars ahead of me, none of which were making detours. I drove up to the booth and answered the standard questions - "What's your citizenship?", "Where do you live?", "Where are you going?" and finally the big one - "What's in those boxes?"

I told her African violets. She asked for I.D. and I gave her my driver's license. She looked at the license then back at me. I had my usual 2 week's worth of scruffy beard and could almost hear her thinking, "This guy is some kind of terrorist smuggling something into the country." She kept my license and instructed me to park in Inspection Bay #3. It had a hoist on the floor. I was wondering if I had to drive up it or wait. There was nobody around so I decided to park in front of it. The van was a rental, and I didn't want to damage it by slipping off the hoist, and more importantly I didn't want to jolt my violets in the back. I locked the van, walked inside, took a seat and waited. All the Customs officers were carrying guns at their sides. This was an intimidating place!

Behind the counter, directly in front of me, three officials were talking. I couldn't hear what they were saying, but was sure they were talking about me. One kept looking in my direction. I bet they're discussing the latest "Most Wanted" list. I was aware I was looking rough around the edges.

Finally one approached the counter and asked, "Can I help you?" I told him I was asked to pull over and come inside. He informed me that I should be sitting on the other side. I followed his instructions and moved.

Thirty minutes later my name was called and I approached the counter. The officer asked, "You have African violets?"

"Yes," I replied. "I'm attending an African violet convention in Syracuse".

Then he wanted to see a phytosanitary certificate, which I did not have. I explained that the violets are grown in soilless mix - containing only peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, no soil, and that they were grown in my home. He didn't look convinced. I continued to say that all the plants were coming back with me.

"What kind of awards are you given?" he asked.

"Ribbons and small cash prizes," I replied. He handed back my license and said I could go. WHAT A RELIEF!

As I was leaving, the gate attendant came inside again

and informed the officer, "There's more violet people outside."

In comes Carolyn and her husband Alan. I hung around as she went through the same routine I just had. But when the officer asked about prizes and awards, she tells him that I always win them.

"Gee thanks, Carolyn!" I'm trying to make a clean break before the Customs guy gets curious enough to actually go through my van. He didn't, and we were out in 5 minutes.

We had a fabulous time at the Convention. Carolyn and I picked up numerous awards including, between us, the top three. So you see, Carolyn, I DON'T WIN THEM ALL!

EDITOR'S NOTE: to see one of the B-Man's outstanding plants, turn to page 36.

From "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada



Lyndon Lyon GREENHOUSES, INC.

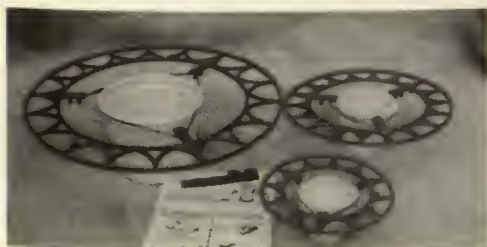
PO Box 249, Dept AV
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Our 1999 Supplement to the 1998 Catalog is now available. Please call or write for your free copy! Phone number (315) 429-8291

— OR —

Visit our website at:
www.lyndonlyon.com

"Where The Violets Are!"
Quality Hybrids
Since 1954



LEAF SUPPORT RINGS

Give your violets a spruced up look. Keep the leaves from touching and being damaged by rough pot edges. Excellent for training show plants to perfect symmetry. Made of green plastic. Each comes with a rubber band which is what holds the ring onto the pot. Slides on from the bottom of the pot. Instructions included. Three sizes:

6" Ring - great for minis and young standards. Fits up to 3" pots.
\$1.19 each; or \$12.99 per dozen, or \$24.49 per 25.

9" Ring - fits 3" to 5" pots. \$1.29 each, or \$13.39 per dozen; or \$24.29 per 25.
13" Ring - fits 5" to 8" pots. \$1.49 each; or \$16.19 per dozen; or \$29.19 per 25.

Extra rubber bands (specify which ring size) \$.75 per dozen.

SHIPPING/HANDLING COSTS: Orders for less than \$10; add \$5.50; Orders for more than \$10 add \$6.50. WE SHIP via UPS most often. (Orders shipped outside the U.S. will be mailed at actual cost.)

A free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list will be enclosed with each order. Colorado addresses please add 3% tax. We also have a complete line of growing supplies, lighted plant stands, soils, fertilizers, assorted pots, wicking trays, insecticides, books, seed and more AND leaves or starter plants of over 120 different violets - including minis, standards and gesneriads. Lots of new varieties for this year plus many classics. In business since 1969. Closed Sundays and Tuesdays.

Visit our web page at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/violet_showcase

Checks, MASTERCARD, VISA and DISCOVER accepted.
Phone (303) 761-1770 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mountain Time Mondays and Wednesdays thru Saturdays. (Mountain Time is 2 hours earlier than Eastern Time and 1 hour later than Pacific Time) Fax (303) 762-1808. FAX machine any time. Catalogs free to US addresses. Others send \$2.00 US\$

THE VIOLET SHOWCASE

3147 South Broadway
Englewood, Colorado 80110



CLASSIFIED ADS

BAYOU VIOLETS - LEAVES ONLY

Request catalog \$1.00
Check payable to Genelle Armstrong
1313 Gardenia Drive
Metairie, LA 70005-1152

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Top of the line.
Commercial proven. Outperform chemicals.
Free catalog 1 (800) 259-GROW (4769)

VIOLET VENTURE

Fay Wagman • 52 Harper Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534
Leaves only - List \$1.00



African violets know no borders, so why not become a member of the

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

and receive **Chatter**, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC and forward to:

Mrs. Irene Henry
349 Hyman Drive
Dollard des Ormeau, P.Q. H9B 1L5
Canada

Join
Today!



Cryptanthus

the Dazzling Earth Stars

are the perfect companion plants for your

African violet collection requiring the same care. Exquisite colors, leaf shapes and patterns of stripes, bars and zig zags year 'round in every shade of the rainbow.

Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive
Spring, TX 77388

*A new independent
AV and Gesneriad publication!*

African - violet and Gesneriad NEWS

IN CANADA \$15/yr (4 issues) (All other countries \$15. US)
Send for a sample copy - only \$2.

Payment must be made out to **John Beaulieu Productions**
37 Shaw Crescent, Barrie, Ontario L4N 4Z3 (705) 726-7363

Blue & Gold Embroidery

Sweatshirts with violet design are available in S, M, L, XL and XXL. Send \$28.00 + \$3.00s&h (VA residents add \$1.26) to address below. Be sure to include return address. Hats and other merchandise also available.

We have great gifts for the holidays

Nancy L. Crochet

6104 Wyoma Court
Springfield, VA 22152-1636

Phone: 703-912-9005
mcrochet@sprynet.com



*I'm not getting old..
I just need repotting*



Bill & Kathryn Paauwe
45 Third Street

W. Sayville, NY 11796

(516) 589-2724

violetsbyappointment@juno.com

Sincere thanks to all
for a 'wonderful run'!!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Travis Niolets.

P. O. BOX 42 OCHLOCKNEE, GA. 31773

2 FREE VIOLETS!!!

New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 1999 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$38 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: www.imox.com/travisviolets

AD EXPIRES 11/30/99





BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS AND OTHER GESNERIADS FROM GARY & PAT DUNLAP

Assortments	Leaves, Cuttings or Rhizomes	Starters
10 Standard	7.95	21.95
10 Miniature	5.95	17.95
10 Semiminiature	5.95	17.95
10 Trailers	5.95	17.95
10 Mixed	6.95	19.95
10 Mixed/all new	8.95	24.95
10 Species	8.95	24.95
10 Streptocarpus	8.95	24.95
10 Achimenes	8.95	24.95
10 Aeschynanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Columnea	8.95	24.95
10 Nematanthus	8.95	24.95
10 Mixed other Gesneriads	8.95	24.95

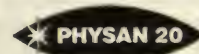
Miracle Mix Potting Soil \$2.50/gal
Miracle Mix II (High water retention) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix III (Beneficial bacteria) \$3.00/gal
Miracle Mix IV (Both additives) \$3.50/gal.

Sales in USA only. Minimum order \$20. No credit. Packing and shipping \$6 plus .25 per plant after the first 10 plants, .10 per leaf after the first 10 leaves. We ship by priority mail only. Our choice only on assortments. Catalog \$1.50 or free with your first order. Make checks payable to: Dunlap Enterprises, 4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050. Our catalog is also at our home page: <http://www.jcn1.com/patspets> phone (314) 789-3604 e-mail: patspets@jcn1.com

PHYSAN 20™ Controls African Violet Pathogens.

- Controls algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls disease spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20.**



MARIL PRODUCTS, INC.
320 West 6th Street
Tustin, CA. 92780
P. 714.544.7711
800.546.7711
F. 714.544.4830
www.physan.com

BELISLE'S VIOLET HOUSE MARCIA BELISLE

Heirloom Violets • Quality Gesneriads
Unusual Companion Plants • Mail Order Catalog \$2.00
4041 N. Metnik Rd.
Ojibwa, WI 54862
(715) 945-2687

P.O. Box 111
Radisson, WI 54867

- AFRICAN VIOLETS • CONSTANT FEED ® FERTILIZER
- RESERVOIR WICK POTS • RESERVOIR WICK SAUCERS
- POTTING SOIL • MATTING • PLASTIC POTS • PLASTIC GRATING
- A.V. SEED • PLASTIC TRAYS • FLUORESCENT LAMPS
- PLANT STANDS • COLOR CATALOG \$1.00



VOLKMAN BROS. GREENHOUSES
2714 MINERT ST. • DALLAS, TEXAS 75219-1150
AREA CODE (214) 526-3484



P. O. Box 527-AV • Dexter, MI 48130
Phone (734) 426-9080 • Fax: (734) 426-7803
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EASTERN
www.gardensupplies.com

FULL LINE OF INDOOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

- ♦ PLANT TRAYS ♦ LIGHTED STANDS ♦
- ♦ METERS, TIMERS ♦ PLANTLITES ♦ ACCESSORIES ♦

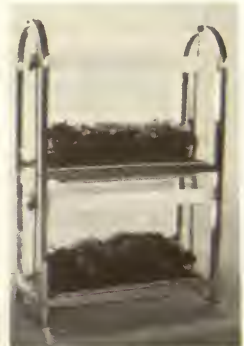
40 WATT WS (Wide Spectrum) LAMPS:
6 = \$36.32 12 = \$62.06 24 = \$117.90

G4-SD2 \$554.00
W/4 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
4 Shelves W/16 Trays
74H x 53L x 23D

ALL PRICES PREPAID.
MICHIGAN RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, CHECKS & COD'S ACCEPTED

FREE CATALOG

G22 \$164.80
W/2 Two Lamp Fixtures
and WS Lamps
2 Shelves W/2 Trays
40H x 27L x 12D





Rob's Mini-o-lets

African Violets and Gesneriads

LOOK WHAT'S NEW FOR 1999!

**Winner, Best Commercial Display
at 1999 AVSA Convention Show**

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET VARIETIES

ROB'S BAMBOOZLE. Masses of sparkling, very bright rosy-pink sdbl. pansies over very dark, red-backed foliage; extremely heavy bloomer; semimini

ROB'S COOL FRUIT. Fully dbl. white w/rose edging; wonderful, heavily crown-variegated foliage; always in heavy bloom, though lovely even when not; great semimini showplant

ROB'S FUZZY NAVEL. A superior showplant that will be winning awards for years; tons and tons of large, bright peach-pink dbl. stars over very dark foliage; always in very heavy bloom; if you grow for show, you must grow this one; semimini

ROB'S ICE RIPPLES. Large, lightly frilled sdbl. white stars with excellent med. blue edging; wavy, glossy, med. green foliage; a constant bloomer; eye-catching mini

ROB'S OOPSIE DAISY. Dbl. white w/pink edges and side stripes; absolutely lovely creamy crown variegated foliage; semimini chimera (price \$10 - limited quantity)

ROB'S OUTER ORBIT. Everyone who's seen this one just has to have it! Very unusual, sdbl. deep blue w/bright pink spotting, then edged white; dark, nicely variegated foliage; great bloomer, a real "collectible"; semimini

ROB'S RINKY DINK. An adorable plant that red-lovers will want; profusion of sdbl. deep red "valentine" blooms over dark foliage; excellent bloomer; lovely mini

.....**plus dozens of other favorites, including Rob's Hallucination, Best New Cultivar at 1999 AVSA Convention Show.**

NEW STREPTOCARPUS VARIETIES

Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

BRISTOL'S FRICKIN FRACK. Very deep-deep burgundy-red blooms; dark, red-backed foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S HOB GOBLIN. Fantastic very deep-deep velvety red w/white throat; med.-dark foliage; compact grower

BRISTOL'S OINGO BOINGO. Dbl. blue w/yellow throat; profuse

BRISTOL'S PETTICOATS. Stunningly beautiful! Large, red-wine w/broad, distinctive, lightly frilled edging; just lovely

BRISTOL'S PIGGLY WIGGLY. Adorable sdbl. very deep pink w/darker veining; compact grower

BRISTOL'S POKEY DOT. Bright, deep-deep carmine pink w/very clear, bright yellow throat; just cute!; small grower

BRISTOL'S POPSICLE. Striking! Deep pink w/large, very distinctive red center; very eye-catching

BRISTOL'S SHOWSTOPPER. A fantastic plant that we expect to be our best seller - wow! sdbl. to dbl. white fluted blooms w/very striking, deep purple center; petal backs red-purple; tremendous bloomer and performer

.....**plus dozens of other favorites**

WE ALSO GROW 100'S OF STANDARD VARIETIES! OTHER GESNERIADS, MINIATURE, & EXOTIC HOUSEPLANTS ALSO

PRICES: \$3.50 per plant. Please add \$6 per order for shipping (beginning April 15). Winter shipping by express mail only (\$18 plus \$.25 per plant) - available to most areas. **We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime, safe-delivery guaranteed!**

Special offer: 10 different plants (our choice) \$25 plus shipping. Club project and wholesale plants at discount prices.

Subscribe to "VioletsFun" Photo Journal!

VioletsFun is an exciting new journal that is now available. In addition to **4 full-color 8 1/2" X 11" pages**, it contains cultural information, reviews of latest varieties, interviews with leading growers, exhibitors and hybridizers, and reports on shows we've done or seen. It is our way of sharing our mutual love of African violets with other growers.

VioletsFun is a "diary" of our own experiences with growing and exhibiting violets and will be published bimonthly at a cost of \$10 for 6 issues. **Subscriptions placed with orders of \$20 or more will receive one free plant!** You need not order to subscribe.

SEND \$1 FOR FULL-COLOR CATALOG
or visit our web-site at www.robsviolet.com

DR. RALPH (ROB) & OLIVE MA ROBINSON
P.O. BOX 9, NAPLES, NY 14512

PHONE: 716-374-8592
Shop & Greenhouse open daily, 12 - 5 p.m.



A & W VIOLETS OUR SECOND YEAR

Best organized New varieties
Lots more starter plants!
Catalog \$2
8704 E. 92nd Pl. K.C. MO. 64138
(816) 765-5589



Acree Creations

Custom Made Award
Ribbons and Rosettes

YVONNE ACREE

3235 Lockmoor Lane Dallas, Texas 75220
(214) 357-6045

AFRICAN VIOLETS BY FREDERICKS, INC.

Alyce Droege

BEST VARIETIES - YELLOWS TOO!

STANDARDS in 3" & 4" pots, plus leaves

MINIS CHIRITAS
TRAILERS CHIMERAS
EPISCIAS STREPTOCARPUS
and other GESNERIADS

COMPLETE GROWERS SUPPLIES

design supplies - books - pincups 2-3/4" to 5-1/2"

fertilizers - spray - "my own mix" soil

Dandy pots - 2 sizes - many colors

growing pots - Oyamas - hanging baskets

beautiful ceramic wick pots (pat. pend.)

6 sizes - decorator colors

Home of Aly's hybrids

GIFT CERTIFICATES - CATALOGUE \$2.00

P. O. Box 1416

Franklin, NC 28744

Monday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



1-800-771-0899 ORDERS ONLY

1-828-349-4832

www.african-violets.com

Florida Registration number: 47219602

Ceramic Reservoir Pots 4 pack: \$34.95

5 plant collection in plastic mini-wells still \$29.95

Postpaid to 48 states
Alaska & Hawaii add \$10.00



Super Miniatures

Receive a collection of Little Jewels® violets direct from Holtkamp. The Mini-Well™ or blue ceramic reservoirs are included along with fertilizer. *These minis are easy to grow!*

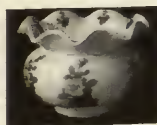
Teas Nursery Co., Inc., P.O. Box 1603, Bellaire, TX 77402-1603



Teas Catalog
FREE to AVSA

Fertilizers, violet pots including the Dandy Pot® plus orchids, plumerias, bromeliads, books, and supplies.

1-800-446-7723 www.teasnursery.com



African Violet Pots By MBK Ceramics

We specialize in 2-piece ceramic African violet pots in various shapes and sizes in colorful flower designs

Check out our Online Store

www.mbkceramics.com

E-mail stardrifter@earthlink.net

fax (707) 452-8018



Desert Violets

Quality leaves and starter plants

Y2K Catalog available January 1st

\$1.00 cash, refundable with order

Susan Merski, horticulturalist
(520) 326-3057
email: desertviolets@theriver.com

2511 N. Desert Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85712
by appointment only



OUR 27TH YEAR

CAPE COD VIOLETRY

John & Barbara Cook

Dept. AV 28 Minot St. (508) 548-2798

Hours by appointment • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540

SUPPLIES FOR VIOLET GROWERS BY VIOLET GROWERS

WE CARRY ALL THE SPECIES AND THE ORIGINAL 10

Catalog \$2.00, Foreign catalog \$3.00

Phone (508) 548-2798 - Fax (508) 540-5427 - email violets@cape.com

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

SIZE	COLOR	TYPE	10	25	50	100	500
1-1/4"	Wt. (only)	Thumb Pot	\$ 1.20	\$ 2.75	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 44.50
2-1/4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.05	2.15	3.90	7.25	33.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.20	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

MINIATURIZING MINI POTS WITH SAUCER

1-1/4"	Terracotta	4.00	8.00	14.00	25.00
--------	------------	------	------	-------	-------

PLASTIC PAN POTS

5"	Gr. or Wt.	2-1/2" Deep	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3-3/4" Deep	4.10	9.75	18.50	35.00	165.00
7"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	6.00	14.50	28.00	54.00	
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4" Deep	7.60	18.50	36.00	70.00	

PLASTIC HEAVY DUTY POT SAUCERS

4"	Gr. or Wt.	2.25	5.25	9.00	16.80
6"	Gr. or Wt.	3.60	8.60	15.80	29.00
8"	Gr. or Wt.	4.40	10.50	20.00	38.00

PLASTIC WICK WATER RESERVOIRS

(recessed snap-on lids, 8 oz)	3.00	7.15	13.20	24.00	110.00
wicks not included) 16 oz	3.60	8.50	16.00	30.00	140.00
Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price 32 oz	4.90	11.75	22.50	42.00	200.00

PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

PERMANEST TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.00 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.25 each.

Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	Gr. only	1	6	12	25	50
9"	Gr. only	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	Gr. only	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
		1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle - \$3.00 each;
3 for \$8.50; 6 for \$16.50; 12 for \$30.00

PLASTIC TERRARIUM

12" Diameter - \$6.75 each
White - Green - Beige - Terra-cotta

SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

White - Green - Black
\$4.00 each - 6/19.20 - 12/36.40 - 24/67.00

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Supplies - UPS East of Mississippi - \$4.00;
West of Mississippi - \$4.50 • \$5.00 West of Rockies
Supplies - U.S. Mail - Actual Cost - \$4.00 min.
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax

Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and
Phone Number

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price	
7-9-5	Plant Food	1/2 pt.	1 pt.
3-12-6	Bloom	\$4.29	\$6.29
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	\$4.29	\$7.49
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	\$4.29	
Concentrate	K-L-N	\$4.29	
		\$10.00	
Dolomite Limestone			
Charcoal			
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	20 oz.	2 lbs./\$1.75
		1.75	40 oz. 3.25
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	16 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	5.00
Canadian Peat Moss		1.75	5.00
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide		\$1.75	\$5.00
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths			

ELISA'S AFRICAN VIOLET SUPPORT RINGS

MANUFACTURER
WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR

6" - 9" - 13"

CLUBS - BUSINESSES
SEND FOR PRICE LIST

PHYSAN 20

16 oz. - \$6.25
32 oz. - \$10.50
1 gal. - \$31.50

SUPERTHRIVE

1/2 oz. - \$2.79
1 oz. - \$4.19
2 oz. - \$5.25
4 oz. - \$8.45

DANDY POTS

2-1/4" - 4"

OYAMA PLANTERS

Mini - 1-1/2" - 2-1/2" - 3" - 3-1/2"
4"-5"-6"

AEROSOLS

PT 1200 DS - 18 oz. \$11.95

Resmitherins

PT 1300 DS - 18 oz. \$12.00

Orthene

PT 1500 DS - 16 oz. \$6.95

Knox-Out - Diazinon

PT 1600 DS - 16 oz. \$9.89

X-Clude - Pyrethrums

CHEMICALS

Phyton 27, Avid

Marathon, Pentac, Aerosols

Shultz Products & Others

FLORA CART

Light Stands

KEIKIGROW PLUS

15 ml - \$21.50

You know African Violets -
now meet the rest of the family...

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society

Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund,
judging schools, round robins, annual
convention, plus a copy of
"How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

Individual membership - \$20.00

Outside of the U.S. \$25.00

Please send check, money order, or
credit card information to:

AGGS Membership Secretariat
M. J. & D. B. Tyler
P. O. Box 1598
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0194 USA

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>

1-800-770-AVSA

Prairie Violets

older and newer varieties, species, novelties, etc.

Leaves labeled - our choice

12 for \$10, 25 for \$15, 35 for \$20, 50 for \$25. Postpaid, shipping May 1st thru Oct. 30th

Prairie Violets • P. O. Box 313 • Maroa, IL 61756

prairieviolets@locomp.net

additional monthly specials



HATTIE BAGGETT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

*Specializing in Large Flowering Standards, Lots of Oldies
Plus New Varieties, Shipping Fresh Cut Leaves Only,
State Inspected and Certified - Shipping United States Only*

1999 List \$1.50 - Payable to
Shipping May 1 to Oct. 31, 1999
Phone 520-822-5060

Hattie Baggett
HCR 2, Box 381
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714



Have a World of Orchids at Your Fingertips!

Join the American
Orchid Society

Delve into the fascinating world
of orchids each month when you
become a member of the American
Orchid Society. Your journey begins when you open the
American Orchid Society Bulletin to pages filled with
priceless tips and articles on orchid culture accompanied
by beautiful, four-color orchid photographs. A special
advertising section helps locate sources of orchid plants,
supplies, items from the AOS Book Department and
whatever else is needed to become a successful grower.
Join the Society that brings the world of orchids to your
fingertips. Please write or call for a free, four-color
membership brochure and let the journey begin.

American Orchid Society, Department AV
6000 South Olive Avenue • West Palm Beach, FL 33405
(407) 585-8666

VioletsFun Photo Journal

Each issue contains 4 **full-color** pages,
interesting articles and cultural information
6 issues per year, \$10 (\$12 outside of US).

VioletsFun, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512
Phone: 716-374-8592 VioletsFun@aol.com



*The Association for plant &
flower people who grow in
hobby greenhouses and
windows!*

Quarterly Magazine
Growing & Maintenance
Help & Advice

Hobby Greenhouse Association

8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Dues: USA \$19 (Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO)
(\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund
is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat.
You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

*Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
Tanzania Wildlife Fund • 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001
New York, NY 10022*



Country Violets Greenhouse

2010 Enon Rd.
Webb, AL 36376

Quality plants and leaves from many great hybridizers.
Send for our catalog of more than 250 varieties

e-mail: royh@graceba.net

Phone: 334-899-7142

check us out on the web

www.graceba.net/~royh



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

Largest Variety of SELF-WATERING POTS

33 uniquely different pots, including:
ANGELS, SQUARE SILL SITTERS, ROUND HANGING POTS,
TEA POTS, FLUTED, VICTORIAN AND MORE.

Must see COLOR PHOTO to appreciate
Artfully Handpainted (No Decals).
AFFORDABLY PRICED. All made in our Studio.

Call or Write for FREE Catalog.

Herbal Gardens Ceramics
Montara, CA 94037

P. O. Box 38
(650) 728-7683

Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey
Springfield, Missouri

DYNA-GRO™
NUTRITION SOLUTIONS®

For information or to order call Dyna-Gro
(800) DYNA-GRO or FAX (510) 233-0198
1065 Broadway • San Pablo, CA 94806

AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award!
I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne
(Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")



A step-by-step guide

Illustrated - 112 pages
8 1/2 x 11 paperback

USA/Canada
\$1.50 p&h + **12.95**
Calif. add 6% sales tax
overseas postage: \$7.50
air mail, or \$2.50 surface

D. M. Prestia
1404 N. Tustin J-4
Santa Ana, CA 92705

**SAVE \$2.05
PER BOOK!**

10% discount for 10 or more (save \$1.30 each) USA/CAN p&h 75¢ each (save 75¢ each) total \$2.05! Overseas p&h \$1.20 each surface.

NEW LOWER PRICES!

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Colors: White (Wh), Green (Gr), Terra Cotta (TC), Black (Bl)

Types: Round Standard (RS) - Height and top about equal

Round Tub (RT) - Height about 3/4 width of top

Pan Pot (PP) - Height about 1/2 width of top

Square (SQ) - Volume equal to round standard (Some avail. in Black)

Note: Nice rolled rim on 4" fluted pots

Size	Color	Type	10	20	50	100	500
2"	Wh/Gr	RS	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$3.60	\$6.60	\$31.00
2 1/8"	Wh/TC	RT	1.05	1.80	3.70	6.90	32.00
2 1/4"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.05	1.85	3.80	7.10	33.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RS/SQ	1.20	2.30	4.80	8.80	41.00
3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
4 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	2.30	4.05	8.40	15.60	73.00
5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
6 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/PP	4.50	8.85	18.50	34.10	160.00
8"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	7.30	13.25	27.70	51.10	240.00
10"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	10.00	18.20	38.00	70.20	330.00

MICRO MINI POTS - Terra Cotta Color - With saucers

TC 3.00 5.00 12.00 20.00 80.00

FLUTED VIOLET POTS - 4" wide x 3 1/2" high

4"	Wh/Gr	No saucer	2.50	4.50	9.30	17.10	80.00
4"	Wh/Gr	With saucer	3.60	6.50	13.90	25.60	120.00

PLASTIC HANGING BASKETS - With saucers and hangers

Size	Color	1	5	10	25
4"	Wh/Gr	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$12.50
6"	Wh/Gr	1.10	5.25	10.00	20.00
8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	10	20	50	100	Size	10
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00	7"	4.30
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00	8"	5.10

SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS

5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00	10"	7.30
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00	11"	10.25
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00	12"	11.75
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00		
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00		

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vattex) 4 feet wide	4 sq. ft	\$1.60
PLANT LABELS	3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00	4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	6	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00



CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-377-8466

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied - 1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs - Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
	2 gal.	\$3.50	
PERLITE - Aerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00	
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00	
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75	
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25	
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50	
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75	4 oz./\$7.75
PETERS FERTILIZER			
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00	
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00	
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER			
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz.	\$8.50	
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25	
	16 oz.	\$9.75	

INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES

SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP - Ready to use	12 oz.	\$4.75
Concentrate	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV
P.O. Box 393, Evinston, FL 32633
(352) 591-5373 • (800) 377-8466

- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover
- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders
- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.
- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

Holiday Blessings From The Tinari's

*We hunted and shopped; Until our feet nearly dropped.
Looking for the special wish; But not needed was another dish.
So we decided on an AVSA membership,
A long lasting gift for a year,
No more exhausting shopping to fear.*

African Violet Accessories Shipped Promptly The Year Round



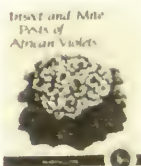
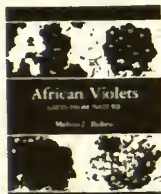
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD ORDERS
PHONE 1-215-947-0144 • FAX 1-215-947-2163



"AFRICAN VIOLETS GIFTS FROM NATURE"

by Melvin J. Robey

Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece ... **\$45.00 ppd.**



"INSECT & MITE PESTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS"

A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included **\$12.00** with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

"GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA"

by Joan Halford

A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed.

Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements.

An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success ... **\$16.95 postpaid**

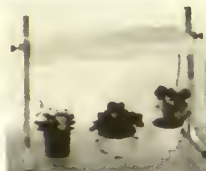


TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... **\$65.95 ppd.**

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length ... **\$75.95 ppd.**



4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.

4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish ... **\$319.00 ppd.**

4-Tray Lite Stand...Brown finish ... **\$339.00 ppd.**



DANDY POTS



DANDY POT ... 4", 16 ounce transparent reservoir wick planters, made of fade resistant plastics, simple to use wick watering system. Easy to fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning. Available in green, lavender, pink, purple and white ... **\$6.99** with any order, specify color

NEW IDEAL! SQUATTY 4" PLASTIC POTS, ... comes complete with easy detachable matching saucer, available in white or green ... **69¢ each**, or Special of 6 for **\$3.95**, with any order.

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT



STYLE CSW-1

Height 4-1/2" overall
Width 7" overall
Pot Size For 3" or 4" pots
Price **\$14.95 ppd**



STYLE CSW-2

Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 5-1/2" overall
Pot Size For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
Price **\$10.95 ppd**



STYLE CSW-MINI

(for miniatures & semiminiatures)

Height 3-1/4" overall
Width 4-3/4" overall
Pot Size Minis
Price **\$8.95 ppd**



STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)

NEW - especially for Micromini

Height 2-1/4"
Width 3-1/2" overall
Price **\$6.95 ppd**

2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white. ... **\$14.95 ppd**



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets **\$5.95 with any order.**

"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... **\$3.49 each ppd.**

"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... **\$4.95 each ppd.**

SPECIAL: One of each ... **\$7.95 ppd.**

SUCKER PLUCKER



LEAF DUSTER



G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS ... **\$175.00 ppd**



TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 0-1-2 ... **\$12.95 ppd.**

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 3-4-5 ... **\$13.95 ppd.**

12 Quart Poly Bag ... Zone 6-7-8-9 ... **\$14.95 ppd.**

(First number of your zip code indicates you should use.)

Tinari
GREENHOUSES

DEPT. AV
COMMERCIAL MEMBER
AVS OF AMERICA, INC.
SINCE 1947

Box 190, 2325 Valley Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

1999 INDEX OF AUTHORS

Adney, John G.	Well-Traveled Violets, Nov p 18	Helm, Carl	Dear Editor, Mar p 9; Worth Repeating...Get Rid of
Baker, Donald	Fantasies - Nature's Gorgeous Goof, Sep p 48	Herbatuk, Anne	Algae!, May p 11
Barrett, Helen	Regional Reviews, May p 12	Hoffner, Sue	My Tough 'Phobos', May p 19
Beam, Marilee	After the Show, Nov p 54	Holm, Sonja	Variation in African Violets, Sep p 10
Beaulieu, John	African Violet Seed Pods, May p 26; Fungus Gnats, Jul p 53; Temperature, Nov p 22; Humidity, Nov p 22	Holmes, Geneva I.	Goodbye Mealies, Goodbye!, Sep p 35
	Growing Tips, Jan p 39; Violets in Winter, Nov p 49	Holtzman, Sharon	A Tiger in My Plant Room, Jul p 41
Beaver, Ina	AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund, Jan p 27; Mar p 42; May p 24; Jul p 34; Sep p 34; Nov p 8		Propagation: A Shortcut to Sturdy African Violet Starters, May p 52; Tips on Thrips, Sep p 39
Blanton, Helen	Big Enough!, Nov p 39	Jones, Jackie	Annual Library Message, Jul p 26
Borck, Byron	Tailoring the Trailer, May p 43; The Impeachment of Jack Know It All, Nov p 45	Keating, Iris	Registration Report, Jan p 18; Mar p 54; May p 34; Jul p 50; Sep p 19; Nov p 10
Breden, Ralph	Creating African Violet Hybrids, Nov p 46	King, Shirley M.	The Little Chimera Who Could, May p 42
Brownlie, John	Entries Program Update, Jul p 11	Kosowsky, Dorothy	Question Box, Mar p 12; Jul p 18; Nov p 12;
Bruns, Joe	Boyce Edens Research Fund, Jan p 15; Mar p 42; May p 24; Jul p 13; Sep p 31; Nov p 43		The New Plant, May p 50
Buck, Marlene	Lone Star AV Council 1999 Convention, Sep p 18	Landgren, Anna Jean	Tally Time 1998, Mar p 16
	AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look (Sonja's Violets), Jan p 10; 1999 Vacation Guide, May p 30; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look, (The Violet Showroom), May p 46; AVSA Commercials - A Closer Look, (Dave's African Violets), Jul p 38; Sometimes You Have to Improve: An Affiliate Program Suggestion, Jul p 54	Lawson, Floyd	Help Us Choose The Very Best, (1999 Best Variety List), Mar p 53; AVSA Honor Roll of African Violets, Jul p 51; 1999 Best Varieties, Nov p 51
	AVSA Advertising Guidelines, Mar p 55	Levine, Nelly	Regional Reviews, May p 13
Carter, Judith M.	Spreading the Cheer, Jan p 20	Lind, Keith	African Violet Pests, Nov p 11
Cash, Amy L.	Pre-Show Grooming, Jan p 9	Lort, Rosemary	Regional Reviews, Mar p 21
Coleman, Kyle	For Beginners, Jan p 12; May p 7; Sep p 16; African Violets are Even More Beautiful When They are in Bloom, Sep p 16	Lyon, Robert	Remembering Lyndon Lyon (1904-1999), Jul p 47
Comibe, Cathy & Al	"And The Winners Are..." Jan p 15; Mar p 38; Jul p 44; Sep p 42; Nov p 21		AVSA Booster Fund, Jan p 35; Mar p 42; May p 21; Jul p 34; Sep p 34; Nov p 43
	Grow The Best and Leave The Rest, Jan p 47; Regional Reviews, Mar p 23	Lyons, Bill	Trailers - My Favorite African Violets, Nov p 38
	My African Violet Safari, Nov p 55	Manozzi, Nancy	African Violet Necks, May p 51
	Office Update, Mar p 5; Jul p 5; Nov p 5	Marchant, Winston S.	Gesneri-Advice, Jan p 11; Mar p 14; May p 9; Jul p 16; Sep p 20; Nov p 9
	Something New Is Coming!, Jan p 22; Growing African Violets Deep in the Heart of Texas, Mar p 44	Martens, Dale	Violets Are Meant To Be Enjoyed, Jan p 45
	Regional Reviews, May p 12	McGaha, Sarah	Green and Brown Thumbs, May p 15
	Culture Shock: Does It Really Show?, Nov p 54	McKain, Dr., Hal	Making the Most of Your Leaves, Mar p 18
	Vintage Violets, Jan p 22; Mar p 34; May p 41; Jul p 17; Sep p 15; Nov p 44; Ah, Youth!, Mar p 47; Horseshoes & Nails?, Sep p 15;	McKinney, Joshua	Regional Reviews, Mar p 20
	I Need a Screwdriver!, Nov p 44	Merrit, Louise	Regional Reviews, Mar p 22
	Have a Little Fun...Make a Dish Garden...It's Easy!, Sep p 26	Miller, Valerie	Impressions of a New Grower, May p 48
	President's Message, May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3; Shows and Judges, Jan p 10; May p 34; Something New Is Coming!, Jan p 22	Murphy, Susan	What Do Those Numbers on the Fertilizer Label Mean?, Nov p 19
	Avoiding Transplant Shock in Variegated Plants, Mar p 53; Air and Your Plants, Sep p 47	Neal, Dave	Dear AVSA, Sep p 5
	Who Said It Was Easy?, Jan p 50; Finding New African Violet Lovers, Mar p 51; Words of Convention Wisdom, Jul p 42	Ness, Don and Jean	Announcement from: Violets by Appointment, Mar p 9
	Shows and Judges, Sep p 12	Paauwe, Bill & Kathryn	1998 Annual Index, Jan p 61
	Let's Go To Convention!, Jan p 26	Paauwe, Bill	Cleopatra's Problem Solved?, Sep p 27
	New Way to Grow Those Stubbom Bloomers, Sep p 7; Terraced Terrariums, Nov p 52	Parsons, Nadine	Vigorous Violets: The Effect of NPK Balanced Fertilizers and the Vitamin on the Crown and Foliar Growth of the Saintpaulia, Jan p 42
	Regional Reviews, Mar p 22	Patel, Joshua	Transporting Plants to Show, Jan p 51; What Makes This Club So Successful? - The Cedar Valley African Violet Club, Jul p 52
	Guidelines for Judging, Nov p 53		On-Demand Pump Watering System, Sep p 22
	"How Do I Get My Plants To Bloom?", Nov p 17	Pershing, Barb	AVSA and Affiliates - Growing Together, Jan p 46; May p 20; Jul p 35; Sep p 30; Nov p 19; Happy New Year, Affiliates, Jan p 46; Affiliate Update, Mar p 18; Jul p 35; Nov p 19; Educate, Educate, Educate, May p 20; More Ways to Attract New Members, Sep p 30
	Leaves are the Barometer of your Plant's Condition, Nov p 26	Pershing, Barbara and Rex	The Tiny But Mitey, Jul p 46
	Soil Mealybugs and Their Close Friends, Thrips and Cyclamen Mites, Mar p 46; So You'd Like to Make a Seed Pod?, Sep p 50	Promersberger, Bev	Dear Ruth, Nov p 4
	A Modern Irrigation System at "Dave's Violets", Mar p 40		Best Articles of 1998 Earn Certificates of Appreciation, Jul p 11
		Rawlings, Tami	Thinking Small, Jan p 16; Jul p 14; Sep p 6; Nov p 14; Regional Reviews, Mar p 20; Thank You for Auction Success, Sep p 51; The Day That Canada Fell, Nov p 34
		Reed, Joan	Committees of the African Violet Society of America, May p 44, Jul p 30
		Rexilius, Jane	Question Box, Jan p 30; May p 16; Sep p 8; Violets for Violet Growers, May p 54
		Richards, Pat	(Taiwan earthquake), Nov p 4
			Be Aware!, Mar p 43
		Rierner, Janet	Interpretive Flower Arrangements, Jan p 38; Design Bits and Pieces, May p 38
		Robinson, Dr., Ralph	Editor's Notes, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; Nov p 4
		Robinson, Olive Ma	The "Facts of Light" for African Violets, Nov p 24
		Rossi, Lola	
		Rourke, Edna	
		Rumsey, Ruth	
		Ryan, Carla	

Sanders, Shirley Smith, Dr., Jeff	A Follow Up From Russia, Mar p 19 In Search of New Violets, Jan p 34; Mar p 30; May p 22; Jul p 12; Sep p 14; Nov p 16 Leaf Propagation, Nov p 50; pH, Should I Bother?, Sep p 24 Sixty Minute Meeting, Sep p 53 Crown Rot In Violets, Jan p 5 For Beginners, Mar p 6; Jul p 8; Nov p 6 Mouse Attack!, May p 10; Favorite Tools and Gadgets, Sep p 38; A Quick and Easy Plant Stand, Nov p 35 Miraculous Mildew Muncher, May p 19 Disbudding, Nov p 39	Tinari, Anne	The Joy of Growing African Violets, Jan p 44; Various Visible Variegates, May p 35; Hear Ye! Hear Ye! – A Special Message to All AVSA Affiliate Presidents, Jul p 56; Proper Potting Pays Dividends, Sep p 45; Acquaintance With African Violet Terminology, Nov p 30 Regional Reviews, May p 13 The Effects of Light on the Growth of African Violets, Nov p 42 Grooming Gesneriads, Nov p 48 President's Message, Jan p 3; Mar p 3 Reflections on the '99 Convention, Sep p 10 Just Be Patient, May p 45
Smith, Ron		Townsend, Reg and Dorothy Ulrich, Laura	
Stenger, Joyce, Stork, Joyce Stork, Kent and Joyce Switzer, Mary Ann		Wattler, Monte Wells, Esther Edwards Westerlund, Malinda Yeates, Rose Marie	
Thompson, Catherine Thorogood, Kim			

1999 TITLES AND SUBJECTS

2ND ANNUAL AVSA CONVENTION AUCTION: DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS,
Mar p 24

ACQUAINTANCE WITH AFRICAN VIOLET TERMINOLOGY, Tinari, Anne, Nov p 30
Affiliate Liability Insurance, Mar p 5

AFFILIATE UPDATE, Promersberger, Bev, Mar p 18; Jul p 35; Nov p 19

Affiliates, Jan p 46; Mar p 5; Mar p 18; May p 20; Jul p 35; Sep p 30; Nov p 19

AFRICAN VIOLET NECKS, Marchant, Winston S., May p 51

AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS, Lind, Keith, Nov p 11

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED PODS, Beaulieu, John, May p 26

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA 32ND CONVENTION, SHOW AND ANNUAL
MEETING, THE, "TORONTO WELCOMES VIOLETS", Mar p 31

AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY ARE IN BLOOM!,
Comibe, Al & Cathy, Sep p 16

AFTER THE SHOW, Beam, Marilee, Nov p 54

AH, YOUTH!, Elkin, Barbara, Mar p 47

AIR AND YOUR PLANTS, Gardner, Sue, Sep p 47

Air Circulation, Sep p 47

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...", Corondan, Mary, Jan p 15; Mar p 38; Jul p 44;
Sep p 42; Nov p 21

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM: VIOLETS BY APPOINTMENT, Paauwe, Bill & Kathryn,
Mar p 9

ANNUAL INDEX, 1998, Paauwe, Bill, Jan p 61

ANNUAL LIBRARY MESSAGE, Jones, Jackie, Jul p 26

ANNUAL MEETING (AVSA) (Minutes), Sep p 12

Aphids, Jul p 49

AT THE LONE STAR VIOLET ROUND-UP (Candid Photos), Jul p 22

ATTENTION AFFILIATES, Mar p 19

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS!!! – QUILT 2000, May p 4

ATTENTION AVSA MEMBERS: CHANGE IN AWARDS PROCEDURES, Jul p 31

ATTENTION COMMERCIAL MEMBERS, Jul p 31

ATTENTION: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 4

Auction, Jan p 19, Mar p 24; Sep p 51

Avid, Mar p 47; Sep p 8

AVOIDING TRANSPLANT SHOCK IN VARIEGATED PLANTS, Gardner, Sue, Mar p 53

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES, Carter, Judith M., Mar p 55

AVSA AND AFFILIATES – GROWING TOGETHER, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 46;

May p 20; Jul p 35; Sep p 30; Nov p 19

AVSA AWARDS, 1999, Jul p 6

AVSA BOOSTER FUND, Lyons, Bill, Jan p 35; Mar p 42; May p 21; Jul p 34;

Sep p 34; Nov p 43

AVSA BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FUND, Blanton, Helen, Jan p 27; Mar p 42;

May p 24; Jul p 34; Sep p 34; Nov p 8

AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP, Jan p 21

AVSA COMMERCIALS – A CLOSER LOOK (DAVE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS), Buttram,
David, Jul p 38

AVSA COMMERCIALS – A CLOSER LOOK (SONJA'S VIOLETS), Buttram, David,
Mar p 10

AVSA COMMERCIALS – A CLOSER LOOK (THE VIOLET ROOM), Buttram, David,
May p 46

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE, Jan Sup, p A-1; Mar p 5

AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, Lawson, Floyd, Jul p 51

AVSA JUDGES, AFFILIATES & COMMERCIAL MEMBERS – 1999, Sep sup, p A-1,
Nov p 5

AVSA MOST WANTED PLANTS FOUND GROWING IN SOUTH AFRICA, Nov p 45

AVSA NATIONAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS, 1999, May p 5

AVSA RESEARCH PAYS OFF – YOUR DONATION DOLLARS AT WORK, Sep p 31
Awards, Jan p 10; May p 8; Jul p 11; Jul p 31; Sep p 18; Nov p 55

BACK TO BUSINESS!, Sep p 18

BE AWARE!, Rossi, Lola, Mar p 43

Beneficial Insects, Nov p 13

BEST ARTICLES OF 1998 EARN AVSA CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION, Rexilius,
Jane, Jul p 11

BEST VARIETIES, 1999, Lawson, Floyd, Nov p 51

Best Variety List Choices, 1999, Mar p 53

BIG ENOUGH!, Borck, Byron, Nov p 39

BLOSSOM TYPES, Sep p 49

Bottle Garden (Picture), Jul p 37

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND, Buck, Marlene, Jan p 15; Mar p 42; May p 24;
Jul p 13; Sep p 31; Nov p 43

BRONZE MEDAL AWARD – DON AND JEAN NESS, Jul p 6

CHIMERAS, Sep p 55

CLEOPATRA'S PROBLEM SOLVED?, Parsons, Nadine, Sep p 27

Cold Drafts, Sep p 17

COMING EVENTS, Jan p 23; Mar p 48; May p 53; Sep p 52; Nov p 55

COMMITTEES OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Riemer, Janet,
May p 44; Jul p 30

Container gardens, May p 6

CONTINUING SERVICE AWARD – DAVID BUTTRAM, Jul p 6

CONVENTION AWARDS, 1999, Jan p 48

CONVENTION DATES HAVE CHANGED, Nov p 55

Convention Presentations, 1999, Jan Sup, p A-11

Convention Tours, 1999, Jan Sup, p A-6

Convention, 1999, Jan p 19

Convention, 2000, Sep p 5; Nov p 55

CREATING AFRICAN VIOLET HYBRIDS, Brownlie, John, Nov p 46

CROWN ROT IN VIOLETS, Stork, Joyce, Jan p 5

CULTURE SHOCK: DOES IT REALLY SHOW?, DiMambro, Lisa, Nov p 54

Cyclamen Mites, Mar p 46; Jul p 46; Jul p 48

DAY THAT CANADA FELL, THE, Richards, Pat, Nov p 34

DEAR AVSA, Ness, Don and Jean, Sep p 5

DEAR EDITOR, Helm, Carl, Mar p 9

DEAR RUTH, Reed, Joan, Nov p 4

Decorative Uses for Violets, Jan p 45

DESIGN BITS AND PIECES, Rourke, Edna, May p 38

Design, Jan p 38; May p 6; May p 38; May p 40 (picture); Jul p 37 (Pictures);
Nov p 37 (Pictures)

DID I DO THAT?, May p 49

Disbudding, Jan p 9

Disbudding, Jan p 9; Nov p 39

DISBUDDING, Thorogood, Kim, Nov p 39

DISEASE AND PLANT PROBLEMS, Jul p 48

Dish Garden, Jul p 37 (Picture)

Dish Garden, Sep p 26

EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE AWARD, THE, Jul p 11

EDITOR'S NOTES, Rumsey, Ruth, Jan p 4; Mar p 4; May p 4; Jul p 4; Sep p 4; No
EDUCATE, EDUCATE, EDUCATE, Promersberger, Bev, May p 20

EFFECTS OF LIGHT ON THE GROWTH OF AFRICAN VIOLETS, THE, Ulrich, La
Nov p 42

ENTRIES PROGRAM UPDATE, Bruns, Joe, Jul p 11

Entries Program, Jan p 22; Mar p 5; Jul p 11

Episcia 'Cleopatra', Sep p 27

"FACTS OF LIGHT" FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS, THE, Ryan, Carla, Nov p 24

FANTASIES – NATURE'S GORGEOUS GOOF, Baker, Donald, Sep p 48

FAVORITE TOOLS AND GADGETS, Switzer, Mary Ann, Sep p 38

Fertilizer, Jul p 9; Sep p 11; Sep p 16; Nov p 19

FINDING NEW AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS, Geiss, Don, Mar p 51

First Class, Jan p 22

FIRST THINGS FIRST IN OMAHA, Jul p 4

Flea collars, Sep p 4; Nov p 12

FOLIO ART GLASS PRODUCTS FROM AVSA, Nov p 40

FOLLOW UP FROM RUSSIA, A, Sanders, Shirley, Mar p 19

FOR BEGINNERS, Cornibe, Cathy & Al, Jan p 12; May p 6; Sep p 16; Stork, Kent & Joyce, Mar p 6; Jul p 8; Nov p 6

FUNGUS GNATS, Beaulieu, John, Jul p 53

Gas leaks, Sep p 17

Gesneriad Grooming, Nov p 48

Gesneriad Judging, Jan p 11

GESNERI-ADVICE, Martens, Dale, Jan p 11; Mar p 14; May p 9; Jul p 16; Sep p 20; Nov p 9

GET RID OF ALGAE!, Helm, Carl, May p 11

GOODBYE MEALIES, GOODBYE!, Holm, Sonja, Sep p 35

GREEN AND BROWN THUMBS, McKain, Dr., Hal, May p 15

GROOMING GESNERIADS, Wadler, Monte, Nov p 48

Grooming, Jan p 9; Jul p 49

GROW THE BEST AND LEAVE THE REST, Covolo, Steve, Jan p 47

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS, Davidson, Ron, Mar p 44

GROWING TIPS, Beaver, Ina, Jan p 39

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING, Green, Bob L., Nov p 53

HAPPY NEW YEAR, AFFILIATES, Promersberger, Bev, Jan p 46

HAVE A LITTLE FUN...MAKE A DISH GARDEN...IT'S EASY!, Ficke, Alma, Sep p 26

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! - A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL AVSA AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS, Tinari, Anne, Jul p 56

HELP US CHOOSE THE VERY BEST, Lawson, Floyd, Mar p 53

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD - ESTHER EDWARDS WELLS, Jul p 7

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - ANN MILLER, Jul p 7

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - BARBARA ELKIN, Jul p 7

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - JEANIE HATFIELD, Jul p 7

HONORARY ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD - JOHN CARTER, Jul p 7

HORSESHOES & NAILS?, Elkin, Barbara, Sep p 15

"HOW DO I GET MY PLANTS TO BLOOM?", Greico, Ruth, Nov p 17

HOW TO ... REPOT AFRICAN VIOLETS, Jul p 43

HOW TO GROOM A YOUNG VIOLET, Jul p 49

HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP - BARBARA ELKIN, Jul p 6

Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership, May p 8, Sep p 18

HUMIDITY, Beaulieu, John, Nov p 22

Humidity, Jul p 10; Sep p 6; Sep p 17; Sep p 47; Nov p 22

Hybridizing, May p 22; May p 54; Jul p 12; Sep p 14; Sep p 50; Nov p 16; Nov p 46

I NEED A SCREWDRIVER!, Elkin, Barbara, Nov p 44

IMPEACHMENT OF JACK KNOW IT ALL, THE, Breden, Ralph, Nov p 45

IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES, May p 14

IMPRESSIONS OF A NEW GROWER, Murphy, Susan, May p 48

IN MEMORY - ARLENE BRITTEN, May p 41

IN MEMORY - FLORENCE L. STEIN, Jul p 49

IN MEMORY - FLORETTA A. WILLETS, Jul p 49

IN MEMORY - JEANNE MYERS, Jul p 49

IN MEMORY - JOHN D. MENISH, Sep p 50

IN MEMORY - JUDY REINWALD, Sep p 50

IN MEMORY - MARGARET VALLIN, Sep p 50

IN MEMORY - VALERIE MILLER, May p 41

IN MEMORY OF L. T. OZIO, JR., Jul p 21

IN SEARCH OF NEW VIOLETS, Smith, Dr. Jeff, Jan p 34; Mar p 30; May p 22; Jul p 12; Sep p 14; Nov p 16

Insects and Diseases, Jan p 30; Mar p 46

Interpretive Flower Arrangements, May p 6

INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS, Rourke, Edna, Jan p 38

Interpretive Plant Arrangements, May p 6

INTRODUCING YOUR 1999 NOMINEES TO THE AVSA BOARD, Jan p 6

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS, Stork, Kent & Joyce, Jul p 8

JOY OF GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS, THE, Tinari, Anne, Jan p 44

Judges Handbook (correction), Jan p 10

Judging, Sep p 10; Nov p 53

JUST BE PATIENT, Yeates, Rose Marie, May p 45

KNOWING YOUR VIOLETS...BASIC FLOWER TYPES, Sep p 36

Knox-Out, Sep p 8

LAST CHANCE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, Nov p 55

Leaf Propagation, May p 16; Jul p 19; Sep p 7

LEAF PROPAGATION, Smith, Ron, Nov p 50

Leaves (as in 'Warning Flags'), May p 49

LEAVES ARE THE BAROMETER OF YOUR PLANT'S CONDITION, Halford, Joan, Nov p 26

LET'S GO TO CONVENTION!, Golubski, Linda, Jan p 26

LIBRARY BULLETIN, Nov p 5

Library, Jul p 26; Nov p 5

Light requirements, Jul p 10; Sep p 11; Sep p 16; Nov p 12; Nov p 42

LITTLE CHIMERA WHO COULD, THE, King, Shirley M., May p 42

ONE STAR AV COUNCIL 1999 CONVENTION, Bullard, Marjorie, Sep p 18

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR LEAVES, McKinney, Joshua, Mar p 18

Marathon, Jan p 30

MARKETING COMMITTEE NAMED, Sep p 35

MASTER LIST OF AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIES AND CULTIVARS, 1999 SUPPLEMENT, Nov Sup, p A-1

Mealy Bugs, Jan p 30; Mar p 13; Mar p 46; Jul p 48; Sep p 35

Members (Photos), Jan p 24

Membership Application, May p 39

Membership Ideas, Jan p 46

Membership, Jul p 56

Minis and Semis, Jan p 12

Minutes, Sep p 12

MIRACULOUS MILDEW MUNCHER, Thompson, Catherine, May p 19

MODERN IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT "DAVE'S VIOLETS", Harris, David, Mar p 40

Mold potting, Jul p 18

Moon Signs, Jan p 41; Mar p 52; May p 18; Jul p 55; Sep p 41; Nov p 23

MORE WAYS TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS, Promersberger, Bev, Sep p 30

MOUSE ATTACK!, Switzer, Mary Ann, May p 10

MY AFRICAN VIOLET SAFARI, Curcuruto, Bruno "B-Man", Nov p 56

MY TOUGH 'PHOBOS', Herbatuk, Anne, May p 19

Necks, May p 51; Sep p 9

Nematodes, Jul p 48

New Gesneriad Hybrids and Species!, Nov p 9

NEW PLANT, THE, Kosowsky, Dorothy, May p 50

NEW SHOW ENTRIES PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE!, Mar p 5; May p 52

NEW WAY TO GROW THOSE STUBBORN BLOOMERS, Goodsell, Barbara, Sep p 7

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR THE HUDSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP, May p 8

NPK, Jan p 42; Jul p 19

OFFICE UPDATE, Daugereau, Jenny, Mar p 5; Jul p 5; Nov p 5

ON-DEMAND PUMP WATERING SYSTEM, Pershing, Barbara and Rex, Sep p 22

Oomycetes, Jan p 5

ORIGINALITY IN SHOW SCHEDULES, Breden, Ralph, Jul p 20

Pests and Diseases, Mar p 6; Nov p 11

pH, Sep p 24

pH, SHOULD I BOTHER?, Smith, Ron, Sep p 24

Phythium, Jan p 5

Phytophthora, Jan p 5

Plant Stand, Nov p 35

PLANTING BY MOON SIGNS, Jan p 41; Mar p 52; May p 18; Jul p 55; Sep p 41; Nov p 23

Pollinating, May p 26; Sep p 50

Pot size, Jan p 16; Sep p 17; Sep p 45

Pots, Jul p 9; Sep p 45

Potting mixes, Jan p 17; Mar p 43; Mar p 45; May p 13; Jul p 8; Sep p 17

POWDERY MILDEW, Jan p 21

Powdery mildew, Jan p 21; May p 19; Jul p 48

PRE-SHOW GROOMING, Coleman, Kyle, Jan p 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Wells, Esther Edwards, Jan p 3; Mar p 3; Foster, Bill, May p 3; Jul p 3; Sep p 3;

Program Ideas, Jul p 54

PROPAGATING AFRICAN VIOLETS, Jan p 43

PROPAGATING STREPTOCARPUS LEAVES, Nov p 31

PROPAGATION: A SHORTCUT TO STURDY AFRICAN VIOLET STARTERS, Holtzman, Sharon, May p 52

PROPER POTTING PAYS DIVIDENDS, Tinari, Anne, Sep p 45

PT 1300 (Orthene), Mar p 46

QUESTION BOX, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, Jan p 30; May p 16; Sep p 8; Kosowsky, Dorothy, Mar p 12; Jul p 18; Nov p 12

QUICK AND EASY PLANT STAND, A, Switzer, Mary Ann, Nov p 35

REFLECTIONS ON THE '99 CONVENTION, Westerlund, Malinda, Sep p 10

REGIONAL REVIEWS, Richards, Pat; Merrit, Louise; Lort, Rosemary; Goretsky, Winston; Miller, Valerie; Covolo, Steve, Mar p 20; De Correa, Cynthia; Barrett, Helen; Levine, Nelly; Townsend, Reg and Dorothy, May p 12

REGISTRATION REPORT, Keating, Iris, Jan p 18; Mar p 54; May p 34; Jul p 50; Sep p 19; Nov p 10

REMEMBERING LYNDON LYON (1904-1999), Lyon, Robert (son), Jul p 47

Repotting, Jan p 17; Mar p 12; May p 51; Jul p 18; Jul p 43

Root and Crown Diseases, Jan p 5

Saintpaulia pusilla, Sep p 14

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES GROWING HABITS, Nov p 20

SEASON'S GREETINGS, Nov p 3

Seed pods, May p 26

Shipping (plants), May p 17

Show Schedules, Jul p 20

SHOWS AND JUDGES, Foster, Bill, Jan p 10; May p 34; Golla, Billie, Sep p 12

Sinningia 'Amizade', Sep p 20

- Sinningia pusilla, May p 9
 SIXTY MINUTE MEETING, Stenger, Joyce, Sep p 53
 SO YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A SEED POD?, Hancock, Pat, Sep p 50
 SOIL MEALYBUGS AND THEIR CLOSE FRIENDS, THRIPS AND CYCLAMEN MITES,
 Hancock, Pat, Mar p 46
 SOMETHING NEW IS COMING!, Davidson, Ron, and Foster, Bill, Jan p 22
 SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO IMPROVISE: AN AFFILIATE PROGRAM SUGGESTION,
 Buttram, David, Jul p 54
 Special Committees (AVSA), Jul p 30
 Species, Sep p 54; Nov p 20
 SPREADING THE CHEER, Cash, Amy L., Jan p 20
 Springtails, Mar p 12
 STANDARD LIGHT FIXTURE, Sep p 51
 Standing Committees (AVSA), May p 44
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS, AVSA, Sep p 27
 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION, Nov p 52
 Streptocarpus, Mar p 14; Nov p 31; Nov p 35
 Symmetry, Sep p 11
 TAILORING THE TRAILER, Breden, Ralph, May p 43
 TALLY TIME 1998, Landgren, Anna Jean, Mar p 16
 TELLTALE LEAVES, Sep p 11
 TEMPERATURE, Beaulieu, John, Nov p 22
 Temperature, Jan p 30; Jul p 8; Sep p 6; Sep p 17; Sep p 47; Nov p 22
 Terminology, Nov p 30
 TERRACED TERRARIUMS, Goodsell, Barbara, Nov p 52
 Terrarium, (Picture) May p 40; Nov p 52
 THANK YOU FOR AUCTION SUCCESS, Richards, Pat, Sep p 51
 THINKING SMALL, Richards, Pat, Jan p 16; Jul p 14; Sep p 6; Nov p 14; Wagman,
 Fay, Mar p 26
 Thrips, Mar p 46; Jul p 49; Sep p 8; Sep p 39
 TIGER IN MY PLANT ROOM, A. Holmes, Geneva I., Jul p 41
 TINARI AWARD - METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL, Jul p 7
 TINARI GREENHOUSES MEMBERSHIP AWARDS, Jan p 48
 TINY BUT MITEY, THE, Rawlings, Tami, Jul p 46
 TIPS ON THRIPS, Holtzman, Sharon, Sep p 39
 TRAILERS - MY FAVORITE AFRICAN VIOLETS, Manozzi, Nancy, Nov p 38
 Trailers, May p 43; Nov p 38
 Trailing African Violets, May p 43; Nov p 14; Nov p 38
 TRANSPORTING PLANTS TO SHOW, Pershing, Barb, Jan p 51
 VACATION GUIDE, 1999, Buttram, David, May p 30
 Variegated foliage, Jan p 31; May p 35; Sep p 10
 VARIATION IN AFRICAN VIOLETS, Hoffner, Sue, Sep p 10
 VARIOUS VISIBLE VARIETIES, Tinari, Anne, May p 35
 VIGOROUS VIOLETS; THE EFFECT OF NPK BALANCED FERTILIZERS AND THE
 VITAMIN ON THE CROWN AND FOLIAR GROWTH OF THE SAINTPAULIA,
 Patel, Joshua, Jan p 42
 VINTAGE VIOLETS, Elkin, Barbara, Jan p 22; Mar p 34; May p 41; Jul p 17;
 Sep p 15; Nov p 44
 Vintage Violets, Jan p 34
 VIOLETS ARE MEANT TO BE ENJOYED, McGaha, Sarah, Jan p 45
 VIOLETS FOR VIOLET GROWERS, Robinson, Dr., Ralph, May p 54
 VIOLETS IN WINTER, Beaver, Ina, Nov p 49
 VIOLETS ON BROADWAY, (1999 MAAVS Convention), Sep p 18
 Water, Jul p 9
 Watering methods, Jan p 16; Mar p 40; Sep p 17
 Website, Mar p 3
 WELL-TRAVELED VIOLETS, Adney, John G., Nov p 18
 WHAT DO THOSE NUMBERS ON THE FERTILIZER LABEL MEAN?, Neal, Dave, Nov
 p 19
 WHAT IS WILD ABOUT OMAHA?, Sep p 5
 WHAT MAKES THIS CLUB SO SUCCESSFUL? - THE CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN VIC
 LET CLUB, Pershing, Barbara, Jul p 52
 WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?, Stork, Kent & Joyce, Mar p 6
 WHERE THEY ONCE GREW, Sep p 54
 WHO SAID IT WAS EASY, Geiss, Don, Jan p 50
 WICK WATERING, Jul p 24
 Window Growing, Nov p 6
 WORDS OF CONVENTION WISDOM, Geiss, Don, Jul p 42

1999 INDEX OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

- ACA'S PINK PET - (Brownlie), Nov p 29
 AGGIE TRAIL - (L. Ray), Mar cover
 APACHE BLANKET - (J. Munk), May p 29
 APACHE FREEDOM - (J. Munk), Nov p 28
 APACHE FRIENDSHIP - (J. Munk), Sep p 29
 B-MAN'S MELILA - (Curcuruto), Nov p 36
 B-MAN'S NOTO - (Curcuruto), Sep p 32
 CALIFORNIA BERRIES - (Ruby Cox), Jan cover
 CLOUD MIST - (Pittman), May p 36
 COLUMNNEA 'APOLLO', Sep p 36
 EMERGENCY - (Stork), Jul p 33
 FREDETTE'S MOONFLOWER - (Fredette), May p 36
 FROSTED DENIM - (Sorano), Mar p 37
 GLEEFUL ELF - (Pittman), Sep p 32
 GLOXINIA 'CHIC' - Jul p 36
 HUMUNGUS (Harrington), Jan p 32
 IRISH DIMPLES - (Sorano), Nov p 32
 LELA MARIE - (Lineberg), Jul p 29
 LITTLE AXEL - (Anthallores), Mar p 28
 LITTLE SNOW WHITE - (Nadeau), Sep p 33
 MAGNOLIA - (Burns/Nadeau), Mar p 28
 MARION'S ENCHANTED TRAIL - (Pittman), Nov p 32
 MARY CRAIG - (Nadeau), Jul p 28
 NESS' ANGEL BABE - (Ness), Mar p 37
 NESS' ANGEL FACE - (Ness), Jan p 36
 NESS' CHINA BLUE - (Ness), May p 32
 NESS' CRANBERRY LACE - (Ness), Mar p 36
 NESS' CRANBERRY SWIRL - (Ness), May cover
 NESS' MIDNIGHT FANTASY - (Ness), May p 33
 OCEAN EYES - (Burns), May p 37
 OPTIMARA HARLEQUIN - (Holtkamp), Jan p 28
 OPTIMARA LITTLE CRYSTAL - (Holtkamp), Jan p 28
 OPTIMARA VAN GOGH - (Holtkamp), May p 28
 ORCHARD'S BUMBLE MAGNET - (R. Wilson), Jul p 32
 PAT CHAMPAGNE - (Pittman), Sep p 29
 PEPPY PINK - (Pittman), Sep p 37
 PERSIAN PRINCE - (Sorano), Sep p 37
 PETITE BLARNEY - (Pittman), Sep p 37
 PINK DOVE - (Sorano), Nov p 33
 PINK SATIN PILLOW - (Sorano), Sep p 33
 REBEL'S BARBARA - (Bann), May p 33
 REBEL'S CRANBERRY CRÈME - (Bann), Mar p 32
 REBEL'S CRESTED ROBIN - (Bann), Jan p 36
 REVENGE - (Stork), Jul p 29
 RHAPSODIE ANGELICA - (Holtkamp), Mar p 33
 RHAPSODIE CLEMENTINE - (Holtkamp), May p 32
 RHAPSODIE ROSE - (Holtkamp), May p 28
 ROB'S BOOGIE WOOGIE - (Robinson), Jan p 29
 ROB'S CALYPSO BEAT - (Robinson), Nov p 28
 ROB'S CHERRY SODA - (Robinson), Jan p 32
 ROB'S COOL FRUIT - (Robinson), Sep p 28
 ROB'S HALLUCINATION - (Robinson), Sep cover
 ROB'S HAND PUPPET - (Robinson), Jul p 32
 ROB'S HOT FOOT - (Robinson), Jan p 40
 ROB'S LILLI PILLI - (Robinson), Nov cover
 ROB'S TIPPY TOE - (Robinson), Mar p 37
 ROB'S WHIPPOORWILL - (Robinson), Jul p 28
 ROB'S ZERO GRAVITY - (Robinson), Nov p 36
 RODEO COUNTRY - (J. Munk), Jan p 33, Jul cover
 SAINTPAULIA VELUTINA, Nov p 29
 SEDONA - (Stork), May p 29
 SINNINGIA CARDINALIS 'REDCOAT' HYBRID, Nov p 33
 SINNINGIA PUSILLA - Jul p 33
 SMITHIANTHA 'LITTLE ONE', Mar p 29
 SMOOCH ME - (Stork), Mar p 36
 SNO CAP TRAIL - (Weynand), May p 37
 STAN'S LEGACY - (Standiff), Mar p 29
 STREPTOCARPUS 'BLUEBERRY MUFFIN', Sep p 36
 STREPTOCARPUS 'LAVENDER ROSETTE', Jul p 36
 TIGER - (Fredette), Jul p 40
 TOMBOY BLUE - (Pittman), Jan p 37
 ULTRA VIOLET SATURN - (Green Circle), Sep p 28
 WHITE DEW - (Pittman), Mar p 33
 WINDMILL - (Stork), Mar p 32